

Syria 'seeks to curb Gulf war'

BEIRUT (R) — Syria is keeping in touch with Iran to prevent an escalation of the Gulf war with Iraq, a senior Syrian official was quoted as saying Sunday. Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara made the statement in an interview with the Beirut daily. An Arab in Tunis, where he was attending an Arab foreign ministers' meeting Saturday. He said Syria was "in constant contact with the Iranians to prevent an escalation of the war. Syria has played a great role on this level." Syria has close relations with Iran's revolutionary Islamic regime, which supplies Syria with about 7.8 million barrels of low-priced crude oil annually. Syria opposes escalating the war as the U.S. might use it to justify direct intervention in the Gulf. Mr. Shara said, noting the conflict had not spread since its start in September 1980. "We had a role in limiting its extent," he said without explanation.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تيمز: صحيفة سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Ben Bella re-enters politics

GENEVA (AP) — Ahmad Ben Bella, first president of Algeria after the country won its independence from France, was quoted Sunday as formally announcing he will seek a political comeback two decades after he was overthrown in a coup d'etat. In a full-page interview with the editor of the Geneva newspaper La Suisse, Claude Richoz, Mr. Ben Bella, 67, was reported as saying that he will found a new political party this month that will soon hold its first congress in Algeria with a provisional platform seeking a pluralist, democratic system of government. Following a war of independence against France Mr. Ben Bella was elected president of Algeria in 1963. He was toppled in 1965, and spent the next 15 years in prison. The newspaper quoted him as praising Libya's leader, Colonel Muammar Qadhafi, and Iran's revolutionary regime, while criticising the repression of dissidents by both. He also was quoted as saying Islam could offer "the solutions so desperately searched by the Third World."

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Saudi prince to visit Peking

RIYADH (R) — Prince Talal bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia said Sunday he had accepted an invitation to visit China but no date has yet been set. He suggested at a news conference here that he would make the trip in his capacity as chairman of the seven-nation Arab Gulf programme for the United Nations Development Agencies. "We co-operate with man not race, colour or ideology," he said. Prince Talal's visit would be one of very few such trips by members of the Saudi royal family to communist countries.

Israel decries U.N. debate

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli official said Sunday the U.N. Security Council's decision to hold a debate on Israeli attacks in the Ain Al Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon was blowing things "way out of proportion." "It is amazing how you can turn a non-event into a big thing," the official told reporters. The council has agreed to hold a special session Monday on an Arab complaint on attacks last week in the camp near Sidon in which three refugees were killed and several people wounded.

India, Pakistan resume peace talks

ISLAMABAD (R) — India and Pakistan resumed stalled talks here Sunday on a proposed peace treaty between the two neighbours who have fought three wars since their independence in 1947. Two meetings were held between senior officials of the two sides on a Pakistani proposal for a non-aggression pact and an Indian proposal for a treaty of peace, friendship and co-operation. Pakistani officials said. The Indian delegation was headed by Foreign Secretary Mahabub Kumar Rasgotra, who arrived Saturday saying India was keen to have "a very large and broad-based relationship" with Pakistan. Pakistan was led by Foreign Secretary Niaz Naik.

Genscher arrives in Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher arrived in Moscow Sunday for a two-day visit in which he will meet Kremlin leaders and urge them to return to East-West nuclear arms talks. But Western diplomats predicted he would get a cool response. West German officials said Mr. Genscher was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, and then drove to a dinner with Ambassador Jorg Kasel.

Swiss vote in favour of banking secrecy

ZURICH (R) — Swiss voters Sunday decisively rejected an attempt by the Socialist Party to open up the country's traditional banking secrecy. A proposal condemned by opponents as striking at the vital nerve of banking and the whole economy was defeated in a referendum by a margin of nearly three to one, according to final results. In a turnout of 42 per cent of the electorate, 73 per cent of voters opposed the proposal and 27 per cent approved.

Saud calls for immediate and firm measures against Iran

Iraq threatens more attacks as S. Arabia urges Arab action

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq warned Sunday it would launch further air strikes against shipping in the Gulf to force Iran to seek peace as Saudi Arabia called for immediate and firm Arab action following recent attacks on Arab oil tankers.

The Iraqi government newspaper Al-Jumhuriya said in an editorial that future air attacks in an Iraqi-declared war zone in the waterway would be stronger and more powerful "to force the Iranian regime into a dreadful corner that will leave it no way out but peace."

"The air strike Friday on enemy ships in the Gulf will not be the last one," the strikes will continue until the proper time comes to mount a decisive blow which will cut the arteries of the Iranian economy," the newspaper said.

Iraq said on Friday its planes had hit two large vessels in the Gulf. The Panamanian-registered bulk carrier Fidelity, with a cargo of steel for Iran from Spain, was subsequently reported to have sunk south of the Iranian Kharg Island oil terminal.

Iraq has damaged and sunk dozens of ships heading for Iranian ports in the northern Gulf since the start of the war in September 1980.

Arab Gulf states have also accused Iran of recent attacks on Arab-owned tankers.

The Al-Jumhuriya editorial followed a warning Saturday by Iraq's First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan that Baghdad would continue its blockade of Iranian Gulf ports.

"The results of the Iraqi siege

on Iran have become clear now and have begun to show their effect... the amount of oil exported by Iran has decreased by 55 per cent as a result of the siege," he said in a speech in southern Iraq.

Mr. Ramadan said the next few months would witness "a development in the siege operation against Iran, in order to force its rulers to lean to the truth and accept peace."

The Saudi call for firm Arab action against attacks on Arab oil tankers came in a speech the kingdom's foreign minister, Prince Saud Al Faisal, gave at a meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Tunis.

Prince Saud told the foreign ministers at the meeting Saturday in Tunis that the attacks, which he blamed on Iran, required "suitable measures as it is no longer possible to simply watch the events of this (Gulf) war and its escalations."

"These developments, which are alarming and a source of concern, have become an issue of extreme gravity and call for immediate action to face them with the necessary and suitable measures as it is no longer possible to simply watch the events of this war and its escalations," he said.

Prince Saud demanded application of the Arab League Charter which provides for measures to be taken if the sovereignty of a

member state is violated and its interests threatened.

"We have asked for this question to be put on the agenda not because we are in favour of war but in order that a joint position may be adopted to avoid the conflict spreading to the whole area," the Saudi minister said.

"It is regrettable that the dangerous aggression by Iranian military aviation against Saudi and Kuwait tankers, who were on their normal routes in the Gulf outside the combat area, constitutes a flagrant aggression on religious, good-neighbourly and international law relations," he added.

"It also constitutes an aggression against the sovereignty and security of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia when we have always preserved our good relations with Iran," he continued.

"The unjustified aggressive acts of Iran lead us to take a firm stand towards this aggression, so that it may not be repeated against the security and interests of the Gulf Co-operation Council and the freedom of navigation in international waters," he said.

One leading Saudi daily, the English-language Arab News, said Sunday the Gulf Arab states had "kept their cool" over the shipping attacks in the interests of peace. The paper appealed to Iran to respond and seek a settlement with Iraq.

It warned that if the Gulf states were dragged into the war, they would be likely, in turn, to draw in the superpowers, a move which would backfire on Iran.

"In fact, it (Iran) is playing into the hands of those who are waiting

for an opportunity to settle their own private scores with the regime in Tehran," the Arab News said.

"But what is heartening is that the Gulf Co-operation Council countries directly affected have kept their cool and have not lost sight of the larger objective, which is to create an atmosphere in which hostilities could end," it added.

Skirmishes continue

Meanwhile, at least two Iranian soldiers were killed and several military targets were destroyed by attacking Iraqis Saturday in continuing border skirmishes in the 44-month-old Gulf war, the Iraqi military said in a communiqué.

Iraqi helicopter gunships made raids in the southern sector of the 1,180 kilometre common border, "destroying five Iranian troop concentrations and a boat," according to the report by the general command of the Iraqi Armed Forces.

The helicopter gunships returned safely to base, the communiqué added.

Iraqi artillery and combat forces, meanwhile, engaged Iranian forces and positions in the southern, central and northern sectors of the war front, the communiqué said, "killing two enemy soldiers and destroying five infantry bunkers and setting ablaze several other military positions."

Salvage teams ready to remove oil from hit Saudi tankers; Iran warns of repercussions over attacks; Mubarak calls for efforts to end conflict; GCC faces crucial test, page 2

Arab foreign ministers denounce Iran

TUNIS (AP) — The Foreign Ministers of the Arab countries overruled Syrian and Libyan dissent early Sunday to denounce Iranian aggression in the Gulf war.

Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal flew home at the end of the one-day meeting, telling reporters the Arab states may have to "take action" to put an end to the crisis in the Gulf.

Arab League Secretary General Cheddi Kibbi of Tunisia said the ministers of the 21 Arab states, with Syria and Libya dissenting, singled out Iran as the aggressor in the war generally and in the escalating air attacks in Gulf shipping in particular.

A resolution approved by the ministers made no mention of Iraqi attacks on oil tankers around Iran's Kharg Island. Conference sources said this distinction was made because the Iraqi attacks took place only in a previously declared and well defined war zone while the Iranian attacks came without warning in the territorial waters and international sea lanes of the Gulf states.

The resolution approved by a majority vote of the ministers called

led on the U.S. Security Council to take "firm and clear action" to put an end to the widening crisis and compel Iran to abide by previous U.N. calls for peace.

Prince Saud went directly from the site of the meeting in Tunis to the Hilton hotel to the airport to return to Riyadh. "Nobody in the Arab World seeks an escalation in the war," he told reporters. "But the Iranian aggression has become so serious and so dangerous that the Arab League has no choice but to take action." He did not elaborate.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara and Libyan Foreign Minister Abdul Salaam Treiki tried throughout the meeting to block any explicit criticism of Iran. Syria and Libya are the only Arab countries backing Iran against Iraq in the war.

Neither Mr. Shara nor Mr. Treiki made any comment at the end of the meeting. Sources said they sought to prevent adoption of the seven-nation resolution by invoking the Arab League's traditional rule of unanimity which gave each of the 21 member countries a power to veto.

Summit set for November

The sources said the ministers had agreed earlier to propose abolition of the unanimity rule at the summit level — and decided after a long discussion that the rule should therefore no longer be applicable at the ministerial level.

The formal abolition of the veto at the summit was a main item before the 13th summit of the Arab states which the ministers decided to convene in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, in the second half of November. The summit was originally scheduled in 1983 and has been twice postponed because of inter-Arab differences.

The November summit is to be preceded by another meeting of foreign ministers, also in Riyadh.

Resolution text

Reuter adds: Following is a translation of the text of the resolution adopted by the Arab League Foreign Ministers Council as given in French by Mr. Kibbi:

The council "denounced the recent bombings of Kuwaiti and

Saudi tankers by the Iranian air force in the territorial waters and maritime corridors of the countries of the Gulf Co-operation Council. It condemns this serious aggression and the very dangerous consequences resulting for the stability and security in the region."

The council "invites Iran to abstain from pursuing such aggressions against shipping from and to the GCC states, to respect their sovereignty, their territorial integrity, their maritime corridors, their ports and economic installations, to fulfill its obligations of good neighbourhood and to observe the principles of international law and the U.N. resolutions, especially Security Council Resolution 540 from 31 October 1983."

The council also invited the Security Council and the international community "to adopt firm and clear positions to end the dangers of the pursuit of such aggressions and acts of destabilisation in the security in the Gulf as well as the threats against the legitimate interests of the states from the area and the world."

1 killed as Israelis open fire in Sidon

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — A civilian was killed Sunday in the southern port of Sidon when Israeli troops opened fire for unknown reasons, Reuters quoted, Lebanese security sources as saying.

The man was hit as Israeli soldiers were carrying out a "search" operation in the main street of the city, during which they fired automatic weapons, the sources said. Israel Radio said the man was killed when the occupation forces opened fire after grenades were thrown at them.

An Israeli military spokesman said the man was killed after the grenade attack which injured one Israeli soldier. The attack occurred at one of the main squares in Sidon, but no further information was available yet, the spokesman said.

Israeli patrols often shoot to clear roads of traffic, to warn peo-

ple of their approach or to test suspicious objects.

The nearby Palestinian refugee camp of Ain Al Hilweh was quiet Sunday after several days of tension in which residents confronted Israeli forces and their local militia allies.

Eyewitnesses quoted by Reuters said Sunday members of the pro-Israeli "national guard" were no longer manning checkpoints at the main entrances to the camp. No Israeli patrols were visible there.

The trouble at Ain Al Hilweh began last Wednesday when Israeli forces stormed the camp, blowing up a number of houses, detaining scores of people, killing three and wounding several. Two refugees were killed in subsequent anti-Israeli protests.

Jordanian trade unions condemn Israeli attack, page 3

Israeli jets bomb eastern Lebanon

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Israeli aircraft Sunday bombed targets in Syrian-held eastern Lebanon only a few kilometres from the Syrian border, according to radio reports.

Radio stations in Beirut reported that the Israeli jets bombed and strafed positions around the villages of Janta, Deir Al Ghazal and Beit in the eastern Bekaa Valley, only two kilometres from the Syrian border. The area is under Syrian control but also houses camps of Iranian revolutionary guards who came to Lebanon in 1982 saying they wanted to fight with Palestinian commandos against the Israeli invaders.

The rightist "Voice of Lebanon" said three Israeli planes attacked military targets in the foothills of a mountain range straddling the Lebanese-Syrian border, while three other planes provided cover.

It said one of the targets was a base equipped with Soviet-made

SAM ground-to-air missiles near Deir Al Ghazal, about 16 kilometres east of the town of Zahle, but did not specify who was manning the base.

Palestinian commandos have some positions in the Bekaa Valley, but only the Syrians are thought to have missile bases.

A military spokesman in Tel Aviv confirmed that Israeli aircraft had been in action Sunday, saying they had raided a base used by Iranian-backed fighters as a training centre and exit point for attacks against Israeli soldiers.

Several hundred Iranian revolutionary guards have been in the Bekaa Valley since coming to Lebanon during the Israeli invasion of 1982.

They are backed by local Shiite Muslims, in particular the "Islamic Amal" movement.

Syria approves 'security' arrangements for Israel, page 2



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday confers with the visiting foreign minister of Benin, Tiamou Abjibade (Petra photo)

Hassan, Sharaf and Anani hold talks with Benin foreign minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and the foreign minister of Benin, Tiamou Abjibade, Sunday discussed the situation in the Middle East and Africa and Afro-Arab relations.

Mr. Abjibade, who arrived in Amman Saturday at the head of an official delegation on a three-day visit to Jordan, earlier met with Acting Foreign Minister and Information Minister Laila Sharaf. The two ministers discussed the latest developments in Africa as well as the Middle East and ways to develop Afro-Arab co-

operation. The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said. The Benin minister expressed his country's desire to bolster relations with Jordan in all fields, the agency added.

Jordan and Benin Sunday opened official talks on economic relations and trade links between the Kingdom and the African state. Mr. Abjibade headed Benin's delegation to the talks while Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism Jawad Al Anani was at the head of the Jordanian team.

Ways for developing co-operation and exchanging exp-

ertise, especially in agriculture and vocational training, topped the agenda of the discussions between the two delegations and agreement was reached on the basis of a framework for expanding these relations, Petra said. Jordan and Benin also agreed on exchange of information and visits by officials and experts in various fields, Petra said.

During Sunday's talks the outlines of a co-operation agreement was also drawn up and the agreement would be signed at a future date, the agency added.

Apple imports to be resumed

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will resume the imports of apples from Syria, Lebanon and Turkey as of June 1, the beginning of the Holy Month of Ramadan, according to a decision announced by the Ministry of Agriculture Sunday.

Ministry Under-Secretary Saleh Al Lawzi requested merchants wishing to import apples to get prior permits from the ministry. The ministry should be informed of the quantities of apples to be imported and the sources of supply, before issuing permits, Dr. Lawzi said.

Jordan banned the imports of apple last year in order to minimise the flow of foreign exchange from the country.

Iraqi oil minister arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iraqi Oil Minister Qasem Ahmad Taqi arrived in Amman Sunday to discuss economic and trade relations.

The Iraqi minister will also discuss co-operation between Jordan and Iraq in oil-related fields.

Last month, Jordan and Iraq signed an oil agreement during a visit to Iraq by Minister Industry, Trade and Tourism Jawad Al Anani. Under the agreement, Iraq will supply Jordan with oil supplies in return for food supplies and facilities for transporting Iraqi goods.

The two sides also agreed to establish a joint company for processing Jordanian agricultural

products and marketing them in Jordan and Iraq.

Transport talks end

Meanwhile in Baghdad, Jordanian and Iraqi teams Sunday ended talks aimed at developing co-operation in transport fields.

The two sides endorsed a general budget for the Joint Jordanian Iraqi Land Transport Company and the decisions passed by the company's board of directors.

The Jordanian side was led by Minister of Transport Taher Hilmar and the Iraqi side by Minister of Communications Abdul Jabbar Abdul Rahim.

PLO factions end Algiers talks without decision on PNC session

By Lami K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A week of "complicated and difficult" talks among five Palestinian commando groups ended in Algiers Saturday without reaching any conclusive agreement on convening the Palestine National Council (PNC), but with a decision to hold a further meeting in Aden, South Yemen, in the first week of June.

A statement issued by the representatives of the five factions said "the meetings covered appreciable stages in the path of achieving a comprehensive national accord" but fell short of fixing a date for the next session of the PNC, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile.

The Algiers talks were aimed at reconciling Fatah, the mainstream commando group and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's power base within the PLO, and four left-wing factions — the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) and the Palestinian Communist Party.

A first round of talks among the factions last month concluded with a commitment on the part of all factions not to convene the PNC until "a comprehensive agreement is reached so as to avoid rifts in the PNC" which is considered the highest legislative body in the PLO.

According to representatives of the five factions who were contacted by the Jordan Times during the second round of talks indicated that the participants delved into the "core of their differences" and "were anxious not to allow the dialogue reach a deadlock." Reliable Palestinian sources in

Algiers described the debate which took place over the weekend as "tense and heated."

The sources attributed the intensity of the talks to the "sensitive nature" of the subjects discussed which included Mr. Arafat's visit to Cairo last December, the PLO's relations with Syria and Jordan.

Relations with Egypt and Mr. Arafat's step, Fatah did not go further than an "organisational condemnation."

A senior PLO official told the Jordan Times that the five factions struck a compromise by agreeing on condemning Mr. Arafat's visit to Egypt without mentioning whether it was a "political" or an "organisational" condemnation, and to freeze further contacts with Egypt.

The participants, however, did not reach a final unified position on the PLO's relations with Egypt. Abdul Rahim Malouh, a member of the political bureau of the PFLP, told the Jordan Times that "all the representatives agreed in principle to freeze further contacts with Egypt and to abide by PNC resolutions concerning relations with Egypt."

He said that the second round of reconciliation talks could be considered as a "very important step towards unity" if the Fatah leadership approves the agreement and abide by its stipulations.

Fatah-Syria mediation

Commenting on Algerian efforts to reconcile Fatah and Syria, Mr. Malouh said that Syrian officials told an Algerian envoy that a comprehensive inter-PLO agreement should be reached before

Fatah-Syrian reconciliation. Syria's insistence on linking inter-PLO unity with Syrian-Fatah relations has apparently bothered Fatah officials in Algiers who described the results of the Algerian efforts "as not significant."

Fatah leaders were also hoping to fix a date for a PNC session and to invite the Arab Liberation Front (ALF) to join the talks during last week's meeting. The other factions insisted that these issues be debated at a later stage.

Relations with Jordan

Relations with Jordan were an important point among differences that were discussed in Algiers. No details were available, but Palestinian sources in Algiers told the Jordan Times that the four factions demanded a commitment from Fatah to the PNC resolutions which called for confederal ties between Jordan and an independent Palestinian state.

The sources said that the Fatah delegation in Algiers stressed that the outcome of the recent Jordanian-PLO talks did not contradict the PNC resolutions.

Representatives of the four factions, however, told the Jordan Times that they wanted to make sure that Mr. Arafat has not reached "any secret agreement" with Jordan that "might infringe upon the right of the PLO to be the sole representative of the Palestinian people."

Prior to the conclusion of the talks in Algiers Saturday the participants formed a "task force" designated to formulate a final unified position. The "task force" includes Mr. Hani Al Hassan, (Fatah), Abdul Rahim Malouh (PFLP), Omar Abu Leila (DFLP) and Suleiman Najab (the Palestinian Communist Party).

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Salvage team ready to remove oil from 2 hit Saudi tankers

BAHRAIN (R) — Salvage teams are set to remove the oil from two stricken Saudi Arabian oil tankers, hit in recent missile attacks in the Gulf, salvage operators said Sunday.

The supertanker Safina Al Arab, attacked on April 25, and the Al Ahoud, hit on May 7, are both moored eight miles apart around 30 miles east of Bahrain. Both ships had just loaded crude oil at Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal when they were hit, apparently by Iraqi missiles.

Operations are going ahead Sunday to transfer the cargo of the 178,808-ton Safina Al Arab, which had taken on 340,000 tonnes of oil at Kharg, to its sister ship, the Swedish-registered Sea Saga.

A spokesman for the Dutch marine salvage company Smit International, brought in by the

Singapore-based Seico Salvage Company to help tackle the blaze aboard the Al Ahoud, said operations to transfer the oil from the Al Ahoud should begin within a couple of days.

Environment officials said Saturday about 80,000 tonnes of oil remained aboard the Al Ahoud.

The Smit spokesman said queuing the blaze aboard the Al Ahoud, which involved three fire-fighting vessels and up to four other tugs, was the most difficult ever encountered by Smit's specialist fire-fighting team.

During the operation, tugs were employed keeping the bows of the ship towards the wind. The fire

was put out Wednesday after a three-hour "foam attack," which had not been possible earlier because the vessel had been too hot.

The little oil spilled during the operation was burned off, he said. The ship was then towed, its stern deep in the water, from off the Iranian coast to Bahrain.

Environment officials said Saturday the Al Ahoud could pose a pollution problem if its cargo is not offloaded soon, but the Smit official said the vessel now appears to be stable.

In Singapore, Seico officials declined to give its earnings for the hazardous operation, but industry sources estimated it could be more than \$10 million.

The threat of more attacks on shipping in the Iran-Iraq war made the operation so dangerous that many of the salvage crew left

home without giving details to their families, the officials said.

"It was tense throughout the mission," one official said. The salvage crew had to move away from the burning tanker several times because of explosions on board, he said.

The Al Ahoud was finally taken in tow by Seico's deep-sea tug Salvaguard which reached it after steaming five days from its Red Sea station.

The tanker was one of at least six ships attacked in the Gulf in the past two weeks. The 16,657-tonne Panamanian cargo ship Fidelity sank near Kharg Island in the latest missile attack Saturday.

Seico, one of the world's biggest salvage companies, said it was not involved in any other salvage operations in the Gulf war zone.



A black plume of smoke rises from the bridge area of the Saudi Arabian tanker Al Ahoud after being attacked south of Kharg Island in the Gulf on May 9 (AP wirephoto)

Gulf states face first crucial test

By Nicholas Moore
Reuters

RIYADH — In its apparent attacks on Arab shipping in the Gulf, Iran risks retaliation by a potentially strong defensive military alliance being put together by Arab states in the area.

Abdullah Bishara, secretary-general of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), comprising Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, has long urged diplomatic efforts to weld the alliance into a NATO-style pact.

And after the recent spate of attacks on shipping in the Gulf Mr. Bishara, a Kuwaiti diplomat, told Reuters earlier this week: "There is now a full conviction of the necessity for a collective defence agreement."

Until now, only Iraq had attacked Gulf shipping, launching dozens of strikes against tankers trading with Iran.

But Tehran hinted it was responsible for assaults this week and after three tankers, one Saudi and two Kuwaiti, were hit in air strikes, the six Gulf Arab states accused Iran of "aggression" and said they would protest at the United Nations.

Riyadh-based diplomats think Iran's clerical rulers calculated that, in its present state of readiness, the GCC would finish from all-out aerial war.

The Saudi-led alliance, now facing its first real test, was formed

just three years ago, on May 25, 1981, to counter any threat from the Islamic revolution across the Gulf in Iran.

The outbreak of war between Iran and Iraq in September 1980 spurred the wealthy, but thinly populated states to huddle together for mutual protection.

Four U.S. AWACS airborne early warning planes were based in Riyadh while the Gulf countries

fund Iraq's war effort with up to \$30 billion, but one answer for the GCC inaction may be that have yet to create an integrated command and air defence structure.

Another problem for GCC defence planners is that they have not been able to train personnel as rapidly as they have been able to lavish colossal sums on the latest equipment.

Published reports outside Saudi Arabia, not contested by diplomats in Riyadh, suggest there may be up to 10,000 foreign military personnel on training and back-up assignments in the area, including Americans, Britons, French and Pakistanis.

Diplomats speculate that the Saudis and Kuwaitis might use their U.S.-supplied Hawk surface-to-air missiles and jet fighters, possibly directed by the AWACS, to defend tanker lanes close to their shores.

But they would favour a diplomatic solution, and their foreign ministers last week branded Iran an aggressor and decided to take their case to the U.N. Security Council.

Meanwhile their economies appear vulnerable to air strikes of which Iran remains capable and which only the most comprehensive air defence system could be sure of countering.

"You cannot have prosperity in a vacuum," Mr. Bishara said. "In a lawless world, you do not rely on goodwill."

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armed themselves with sophisticated Western weapons.

The Saudi defence budget alone is this year projected at some \$23 billion. It covers continued re-equipment of the air force, partly with 60 F-15 Eagles needed to form three "superiority" fighter squadrons.

In all, the six GCC states muster at least 370 combat aircraft.

By contrast, Western military analysts say Iran's air force has been weakened by the long war with Iraq and is short of spares for its U.S.-built Phantoms and other jets.

The puzzle now is why the apparent superiority of the Gulf states failed to deter what were widely believed to be Iranian attacks on Kuwaiti and Saudi shipping in retaliation for Iraqi attacks on ships using Iranian ports.

These two states have helped

Israeli Labour leads in public opinion poll

TEL AVIV (AP) — The opposition Labour Party has a clear lead over Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Coalition, according to a public opinion poll published on Sunday.

The poll, conducted by the Dahaf Research Organisation, indicated that Labour would win 54 seats and its present coalition partners another 10 in the 120-member Knesset, while the Likud would win 42 seats and its coalition partners another 14. The general election is to be held on July 23.

The poll also showed that Is-

raelis were more confident that a labour-led government could deal with the country's problems than the present Likud-led coalition, by a margin of 41 per cent to 38 per cent.

But poll director Mina Zemach said the poll also showed that Mr. Shamir was a more popular candidate for the premiership than Labour leader Shimon Peres. Mr. Shamir was chosen by 52 per cent of the Israelis polled, Mr. Peres by only 39 per cent.

She said in a telephone interview that the pollsters interviewed 1,244 Israeli Jews above

18 during the second week of May.

Of Mr. Shamir's present coalition partners, the poll showed that the National Religious Party, the Orthodox Agudat Israel and the Nationalist Tzohar would win four seats each, and the Tami faction which represents lower-income Jews of North African and Middle Eastern origin would win two.

Of Labour's coalition partners, the centrist Shinui faction would win two seats, the Citizens' Rights Movement one, and the Communist Party four.

Bush ends Gulf visit

MUSCAT (R) — U.S. Vice-President George Bush left Oman Sunday at the end of a five-nation tour which also took him to Japan, Indonesia, India and Pakistan.

Mr. Bush said Saturday his country was in no position to mediate an end to the Gulf war, the Oman News Agency reported.

He told a news conference in Muscat that it was probably more practical to expect countries which neighbour the warring parties, Iran and Iraq, to take up the task, the agency said.

Mr. Bush, who had talks with Oman's Sultan Qaboos Ibn Said earlier Saturday, arrived in Oman Friday on the final leg of an extensive Asian tour.

Alluding to the recent attacks by Iran and Iraq on commercial ships, Mr. Bush said the U.S. administration was "paying very close attention to developments in the Gulf," deploring the loss of life and property in these attacks which struck eight oil tankers and bulk carriers since April 25.

"The whole world would welcome an end to the fighting" between Iran and Iraq, he said. He insisted that the warring sides must stop fighting and start negotiating.

"But I don't see a role for the United States in such negotiations at this juncture," he said.

Foreign reporters were barred from the press conference, a summary of which was made available in Arabic through the official Omani News Agency.

According to Omani reporters who attended the press conference, Mr. Bush made no direct reference to Iran. The American vice-president said in Pakistan before coming to Oman that Iran was responsible for acts of terrorism.

He praised the "courage, energy and determination of Sultan Qaboos," stressing that their talks underscored a resolve to broaden co-operation between the two countries.

Oman is one of the staunchest friends of the United States in the Arab World.

The U.S. enjoys limited military facilities on Omani territory.

19 Iranian guards killed

LONDON (R) — Nineteen Iranian anti-smuggling guards were killed in a battle with international smugglers and "merchants of death" in south-eastern Iran, Tehran Radio reported Saturday.

The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, did not say when the incident took place but said the guards would be buried in the south-eastern town of Zahedan.

The radio gave few details but the number of official casualties appeared to indicate a major battle and the phrase "merchants of death" suggested the smuggling operation involved narcotics or weapons. It did not mention casualties on the other side.

Damascus approves of security arrangements for Israel

LONDON (AP) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has said he would be prepared for Lebanon to give Israel "security guarantees" for its northern border on the condition that Israeli troops leave Lebanon.

Mr. Assad, in an interview published Sunday in London's Observer newspaper, said he feared the Israeli government was trying to recoup its losses after the collapsed May 17 accord of last year by dividing up southern Lebanon and setting up local militias loyal to Israel.

He said he wanted Israel out of Lebanon but believes that is not possible unless Israel is given security guarantees for its northern border.

When asked who was to give Israel those guarantees, Mr. Assad was quoted as saying: "Only the national government of Lebanon can give such guarantees. The Lebanese government has already announced it will take security measures to prevent infiltration or penetration across the border."

Saudi Fund grants loans to Tunisia, Taiwan

BAHRAIN (R) — The Saudi Fund for Development said Saturday it granted two loans at concessionary rates for a total of \$103 million for railway projects in Tunisia and Taiwan.

It signed a loan agreement Saturday for 274.5 million Saudi riyals (\$78 million) for the construction of a main railway station in Taipei, expected to be completed by 1990.

Arab states watch for further attacks

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia and neighbouring states on the Arabian side of the Gulf checked shipping movements Sunday in the hope there would be no further attacks to escalate tension in the region.

A Panamanian-registered cargo vessel carrying steel from Spain to Iran sank Saturday after being hit by a missile off the Iranian coast, raising fears that Iran would follow up its threats of retaliation.

There was no immediate reaction from Tehran to the latest attack, on the 16,657-ton motor bulk carrier Fidelity, but a senior

Iranian official warned earlier this week that Iran would "not sit back and watch" such attacks.

Diplomats on both sides of the Gulf believe Iran will want to retaliate against Iraq or its Gulf backers if it can. But they also believe the Iranians have no wish to escalate the situation to the extent of risking outside intervention.

Both Arab and European diplomats in the region believe Iraq sees an escalation as more in its interests, with the possibility of further military help from its allies and more pressure on Iran to negotiate to end the 44-month-old

Gulf war.

Saudi Arabia and the smaller Gulf states were meanwhile seeking solidarity from the Arab World, particularly at a meeting of Arab League foreign ministers which opened Saturday in Tunis.

The Saudis and their five Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) allies were reportedly hoping to persuade the league to invoke a dormant joint defence agreement, under which league members would have to help the Gulf Arab states if, for example, Iran were to launch air raids across the waterway.

Iran warns of repercussions of attacks

TEHRAN (R) — Iranian President Hajotolleslam Ali Khamenei Sunday underscored warnings from Iran in the past few days of possible repercussions if its oil shipments are disrupted in the war with Iraq.

"The (Gulf) waters are all secure or all insecure," he told an international conference called to review the effects of oil spillage last year resulting from an attack on an Iranian oil platform.

Without referring to the latest strikes on shipping in the Gulf, he said it was unreasonable and unrealistic to have Iran accept that it cannot export its oil while other countries continued to ship theirs freely.

He referred to what he said was help given to Iraq by the United States, France and other Gulf

countries, and asked: "How can they expect us to watch them export their oil?"

At least six vessels have been attacked in the Gulf over the past week, including hits against two Kuwaiti tankers and a Saudi supertanker. Despite speculation outside Iran that it may already have ordered retaliatory strikes against shipping, Tehran has not acknowledged responsibility for any of the latest attacks.

Majlis (parliament) Speaker Hajotolleslam Hashemi Rafsanjani said last Tuesday Iran was following a policy of gradual response, depending on the kind of harassment to its shipping.

"Our policy will be implemented stage by stage," he told Iran's Supreme Council. "We will act in such a way that other countries which export oil be as deprived as we may become."

President Khamenei also warned the U.S. it would suffer more than it had in Lebanon if it intervened in the Gulf. "The superpowers are stupid to expect us to remain silent," he said.

The newspaper Jomhouri Eslami said Sunday the West, and especially the U.S., was trying to shift the centre of the war with Iraq from the frontier battlefields to the entire Gulf region.

The English-language newspaper Kayhan International also signalled the danger of the conflict spreading to other Gulf states.

It said all Arab Gulf states were vulnerable, suggesting Iran had the means to create havoc in the region if it wanted.

Mubarak calls for efforts to end Gulf war

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak Sunday called for a world effort to end the Iran-Iraq war which he described as "very dangerous indeed."

Mr. Mubarak spoke to reporters after inspecting work on some projects including Africa's first subway, being built here by a French consortium at a cost of \$165 million.

work to stop this war at any price," Mr. Mubarak said. "If the world does not fulfil its duty to stop this war, this will lead to very dangerous results and damages."

Mr. Mubarak also warned that the nearly four-year Gulf war would have repercussions "not only for the Gulf, but for the Middle East as a whole and may be it will extend to the whole world."

In the past week, several Arab and other ships were attacked by unidentified missiles in the Gulf.

Egypt has proposed a plan to end the Gulf war. It is presently being reviewed by the non-aligned block, but has already been rejected by Iran.

Egypt has sided with Iraq in this war, providing it with an estimated \$1 billion worth of arms.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
MAIN CHANNEL
17:30 Koran
17:40 Cartoons
18:00 Children Programmes
18:10 Can Jump Puddles
18:30 Programme review
19:30 Programme on public safety
20:30 News in Arabic
20:30 Local Programme
21:30 Arabic Varieties
22:30 Local Programme
23:00 News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL
18:00 French Documentary: Les Stars du Cinema
18:10 Interlude
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 The Blue and the Grey
21:30 Science International
22:30 Comedy: Dr. At Large
23:00 News in English
23:15 Verdi — Eps. 6

RADIO JORDAN
555 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
& partly on 95.60 KHz. SW
07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:05 Morning Show
11:00 Pop Session
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instruments
14:30 Over a Cup of Tea
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instruments
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Classical Show Case
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Sports Round-up
18:30 Arabian Nights
19:00 Newsweek
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
20:30 News Summary
21:00 News Summary
21:05 News Summary
23:00 News Summary
24:00 News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz
06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 An Ice-Cream War 06:45 Letter from London 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 07:30 Sing A Song of London 07:45 Letters from Everywhere 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Baker's Hall 09:00 World News 09:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 09:30 Sarah and Company 10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 Villerte 10:30 Anything Goes 11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 Waveguide 11:25 Good Books 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Music Now 12:15 The Future of World 12:30 Counterpoint 12:00 World News 13:09 News About Britain 13:15 An Ice-Cream War 13:30 Omnibus 14:00 Radio Newsweek 14:15 Brain of Britain 1984 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 15:30 A Dignity Indulgence 15:45 Too Many People 16:30 Pageant of the Past 17:00 Radio Newsweek 17:15 Outlook 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Iberia, Iberia 18:30 The Future of World 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:09 Book Choice 19:15 My World 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsdesk 20:30 As Sun 1:30 21:00 Outlook 21:30 Stock Market Report 21:43 Look Ahead 21:45 Peeples' Choice 22:00 World News 22:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 22:30 Sports International 23:00 London Radio 23:15 An Ice-Cream War 23:30 Counterpoint 24:00 World News 06:00 The World Today 06:25 Book Choice 06:30 Financial News 06:40 Reflections 06:45 Sports Round-up 07:00 World News 07:09 Commentary 07:15 Iberia, Iberia 07:30 Brain of Britain 1984

VOICE OF AMERICA
MW 1260 & SW 7200, 95.6, 117.40, 119.25 and 152.10 KHz
06:00 VOA Morning: News on the hour, news summaries: daily business report, science and medicine, sports reports; VOA editorial and world and U.S. opinion roundups; documentary analysis; viewpoints; features 17:00 News 17:10 Newsline 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News 18:10 Focus 18:30 Music USA standards 19:00 News

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS
* Paintings by Ali Jabri at the British Council
* A collection of paintings and other works of art by local and international artists on show at the Arts and Crafts Centre at 6:00 p.m.
* Exhibition of paintings by Nazareth college students at the French Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.

FILM
* American film week at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

CULTURAL CENTRES
Royal Cultural Centre . Tel. 6610267
American Centre Library . 44371
British Council . 36147-8
French Cultural Centre . 37009
Goethe Institute . 44203
Soviet Cultural Centre . 24049
Spanish Cultural Centre . 39777
Turkish Cultural Centre . 665195
Husseini Youth City . 667181
Y.W.C.A. . 41793
Y.W.M.C.A. . 664251
Amman Municipal Library . 36111
University of Jordan Library . 843555

MUSEUMS
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes from 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim world, as well as a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Mustazah, Jabal Lawzeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m.

1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30138.
Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.
Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37160.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lawzeh, 37640.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 41559.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 71231.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 71751.
Amman International Church (Interdenominational); meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, 663249.

PRAYER TIMES

02:59 Fajr
04:34 (Sunrise) Shuruq
11:52 Dhuhur
15:13 'Asr
18:32 Maghrib
20:04 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport at 001 53250, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

07:05 Cairo (MS)
07:15 Jeddah, Medina (SV)
07:30 Agaba (RJ)
07:45 Cairo (RJ)
07:55 Muscat, Bahrain (RJ)
08:05 Kuwait (RJ)
08:15 Dhahran (RJ)
11:30 Istanbul, Ankara (TK)
12:30 Muscat, Dubai, Bahrain (GF)
14:40 Kuwait (KU)
14:50 Jeddah, Medina (SV)
15:10 Balgrade, Istanbul (JY)
17:00 Athens (RJ)
17:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)
18:30 Cairo (RJ)
18:30 Bangkok (RJ)
18:40 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
20:50 Cairo (MS)
22:30 Beirut (RJ)
06:45 Baghdad (RJ)
06:45 Cairo (RJ)
06:50 Baghdad (RJ)
06:50 London, Baghdad (BA)
08:00 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)

DEPARTURES

07:45 Cairo (RJ)
07:55 Agaba (RJ)
08:30 Athens (OA)
11:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:30 Athens (RJ)
11:30 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Agaba port:
— Marko Maric
— Marzouk Arabia
— Badra
— Roscoe
— Banglar Moni
— Agis Womc
— Vishva Aditya
— Laredo
— Al Khansa

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local sell/buy rates in Jls
Belgian franc 67.2/ 67.6
Dutch guilder 121.4/ 122.1
Egyptian guinea 324.6/ 328.6
French franc 44.4/ 44.7
Iraqi dinar 355.5/ 360.3
Italian lire (for 100) 22.1/ 22.3
Japanese yen (for 100) 162.3/ 163.3
Kuwaiti dinar 1281.5/ 1286.1
Lebanese lira 64.1/ 65.1
Omani rial 1091.6/ 1098.3
Qatari riyal 103.5/ 104
Saudi riyal 107.5/ 108
Swedish crown 46.7/ 47
Swiss franc 166.3/ 167.3
Syrian lira 51.4/ 52.2
UAE dirham 102.9/ 103.4
U.K. sterling pound 525.5/ 528.7
U.S. dollar 378.5/ 380.5
W. German mark 136.5/ 137.3

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Slight increase in temperature and winds will be light and variable changing sometimes to northerly freshening sometimes and calm seas.
Low/high temperature in deg.C
Amman 18/29
Agaba

Prince meets visiting Red Cross heads

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday discussed with the visiting heads of Red Cross societies from four Scandinavian countries ways of bolstering co-operation between their societies and the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS).

At the meeting, Prince Hassan explained the activities and the aims of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues, co-chaired by Prince Hassan and Prince Saddam Aga Khan, and which held its last meeting in Tunis. The commission is currently

concerned over humanitarian issues and human rights, the use of children in warfare and violations by the Israeli occupation authorities in the occupied Arab lands. The meeting was attended by JNRCS President Ahmad Abu Qoura.

Conference seeks health study on occupied lands

AMMAN (Petra) — An Arab medical conference just concluded in Algiers has recommended that a comprehensive study be made of the health conditions prevailing in the occupied Arab lands and then to be distributed to various world health organisations, according to Dr. Hassan Khreis, president of the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA) who has just returned from the Algiers meeting.

He said that the deteriorating health conditions in Israeli-held territory should be exposed to the whole world.

According to Dr. Khreis, the conference also recommended the establishment of a special Arab doctors fund to extend help to Arab physicians and health organisations in the occupied Arab regions and urged Arab governments to give Arab doctors priority for employment in Arab countries.

During his stay in Algiers, Dr. Khreis met the Algerian health minister and the president of the Algerian Medical Association to discuss holding an Arab seminar in Algiers next year when Arab doctors can exchange experience and views.

Report expresses alarm at growth in engineers

AMMAN (J.T.) — A report issued by the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) has revealed that the current growth rate in the number of engineers in Jordan stands at 14.76 per cent annually. The total number of civil engineers registered with the JEA in 1958 was 72, but this figure had risen to 5,021 by the end of 1983. Civil engineers now constitute 43.6 per cent of the total number of 11,527 registered engineers in the country, the report said.

It went on to say that in 1990 there will be 30,000 engineers in Jordan, of whom 13,093 will be civil engineers.

The report proposed that the number of students wishing to become engineers be curtailed drastically as a way of combating future unemployment and that a comprehensive survey of companies employing engineers in Jordan, their programmes for the coming five years at least be conducted.

Hassan sees Iraqi bank governor

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, received Sunday the Iraqi Central Bank governor, Mr. Hassan Al Najafi.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Mohammad Sa'id Nabulsi, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan.

Mr. Najafi was also received by Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat also with Dr. Nabulsi in attendance.

Engineers to boycott meeting in Morocco

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) has decided to boycott a conference in Morocco on the use of cheap materials for construction.

The boycott of the conference, which is due to open on May 25, is in protest of the convening of a conference, which included an official invitation to Israeli Knesset members, in Morocco recently.



His Highness Prince Rashid with his father His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan during the celebration by the Prince Rashid Battalion Sunday of Prince Rashid's fifth birthday (Petra photo)

Battalion marks Prince Rashid's 5th birthday

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday attended a celebration held by the Prince Rashid Battalion on the occasion of Prince Rashid's fifth birthday. Prince Rashid himself also attended the celebration. At the beginning of the ceremony the battalion commander

delivered a speech in which he reaffirmed his men's loyalty to His Majesty King Hussein.

The ceremony included folk dances and national songs. Attending the ceremony were the assistant chief of staff, the commander as well as other high-ranking army officers.

Clean-up campaign shuts ten shops in Madaba

MADABA (Petra) — The public safety committee here Sunday decided to close 10 stores in Madaba because their proprietors had violated safety and sanitation regulations. The committee's teams, who

have been touring the city in the course of a week-long clean-up campaign, have seized food unfit for human consumption from several shops and destroyed it.

In Aqaba, the public safety committee Sunday decided to organise a campaign to spray insecticides and pesticides and to combat the problems of rodents and stray dogs.

The committee will also boost the standard of street-cleaning and will seek to improve the quality of the fire-fighting operations there.

Trade unions condemn Israel's camp massacre

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's trade unions and representatives of various public organisations in the country have sent cables to United Nations Secretary-General Javier Peres de Cuellar, the International Red Cross and various world organisations condemning Israel's recent massacre in the Palestinian refugee camp of Ain Al Hilweh in Lebanon and urging them to intervene to stop such crimes against the Palestinian people.

The protest was initiated following reports Tuesday said that Israeli troops stormed a Palestinian refugee camp near Sidon in southern Lebanon and blew up 20 houses, killing or wounding 20 people sleeping inside, and arresting more than 150 others. Israeli military sources in Tel

Aviv claimed only two houses had been blown up.

The Israeli raid led to demonstrations by camp residents, most of whom were women and children.

The massacre and the demolition of the houses of civilian and peaceful people comes as proof of

the Zionist's criminal character and was carried out in the course of implementing a criminal and planned action against the Palestinian people, the cables said.

Residents said the Israelis had surrounded the camp with tanks and armoured personnel carriers, fired flares overhead before storming the camp and killing its people.

The international community and various political and humanitarian organisations are called on to stop the massacre and to end Israel's crimes which are being committed within Palestine, and Lebanon with the full protection and help of the United States, the enemy of freedom and world peace, the cables said.

Neuro surgery meeting praises role of university in training physicians

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-day advanced neurosurgical sciences seminar opened at the University of Jordan Sunday. Organised by the European Neurosurgical Association (ENA) in co-operation with the Jordanian Neuro-Sciences Society and the University of Jordan, the seminar is being attended by 35 neuro surgeons under training in Jordan, Egypt, Algeria, Sudan and Saudi Arabia.

Ten leading specialists in various fields of neurosurgery from ENA are lecturing at the seminar, according to Dr. Ashraf Kurdi secretary-general of the Pan-Arab Neuro-Sciences Union and president of the Jordanian Neuro-Sciences Society (JNSS).

In an address to the delegates, University of Jordan's President Abdul Salam Al Majali said that the advance made in the field of medicine in Jordan is one of the most significant aspects of the country's development and progress, and the university has contributed to this progress by turning out well-trained physicians who

have offered their services to Jordan and other Arab states.

The University of Jordan has become an institution serving the whole Arab World as half of its graduates find employment in Arab countries and one third of the university's board of trustees are non-Jordanian Arabs, Dr. Majali said.

The University of Jordan plans to establish a neuro-sciences centre as soon as the funds for this project are available, Dr. Majali said.

He said that the university continues to strive to develop the fields of sciences, medicine and surgery in every field, and its hospital now has sections capable of con-

ducting surgery on children, and treating women's illnesses as well as a special section for the practicing of forensic medicine.

Dr. Kurdi spoke at the opening session outlining the importance of the subjects to be discussed and urging the doctors under training to benefit as much as possible from the seminar.

He also spoke about the development of neuro-sciences in Jordan and the activities and programmes conducted by the JNSS.

Also speaking was Dr. John Overgaard from the ENA who outlined in his speech the association's activities that aim at strengthening co-operation between Arab and European associations.

Sharaf: Media has failed to influence world opinion

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Information Minister Laila Sharaf Saturday said that the Arab media has failed in conveying the Arab political reality to world opinion.

Speaking at a debate on the "Reality of Arab Media and its Aspirations", Mrs. Sharaf said that the Arab media's failure in playing an effective role in influencing the world public opinion cannot be detached from the political reality in the Arab World.

Mrs. Sharaf cited the lack of a unified Arab political stance and co-ordination among the different information media, the absence of democracy and the conflicts among the different socio-political systems in the Arab World as major factors which impeded the Arab media from contributing to the development and raising of the intellectual and analytical ability of the Arab individual.

Mrs. Sharaf also said that the fact that the Arab societies have not reached their final structural formation is also an impediment to the development of the media.

"Unlike Western societies which have chosen their social systems and related structural institutions, the Arab World has not decided to follow one of the two

existing social systems".

Consequently, the information minister pointed out, this situation has reflected itself on the Arab media which has not been able to crystallise its goals and priorities.

Mrs. Sharaf suggested the building of an Arab media consistent "with our national goals and aspirations".

Mrs. Sharaf also addressed the necessity of striking a balance between the media of the industrial advanced countries and the developing countries.

She said that the media should be receptive to other nations' cultures but at the same time she stressed the importance of selectivity.

Participating in the debate, which was organised by the Arab Women's Alumni Club, was a prominent Egyptian journalist and a former president of the Egyptian Press Association, Mr. Ramel Al Zuheiri.

Mr. Zuheiri reviewed the history of the Arab media which, he said, was created to voice the opinion of the respective colonial powers that dominated the Arab World.

Nevertheless, he pointed out, the Arab media and journalists have played a significant role in expressing the people's opinion and standing up for their just causes.

Mr. Zuheiri cited the names of many Arab journalists such as the Lebanese Salim Al Lawzi and the Saudi Arabian Nasser Al Saeed who were killed "because they dared to express a free opinion."

"The struggle continues between the state-controlled media, which expresses the authorities' interests and the political and intellectual authority of the media which seeks to express people's aspirations and interests and to play its role in the societies' progress," he said.

In her speech, Mrs. Sharaf also pointed out that the Arab media "has become a tool used by some governments to settle their differences with other governments. This," she said, "has created a media devoid of objectivity and scientific analysis."

In the minister's view the media should be owned by civil institutions in order to have a detached media that can criticise the government and check its flaws.

"However, that does not prevent the state from having its own media to convey its opinion to its people," she said.

Mr. Zuheiri expressed a similar view by saying that "the success of the media depends on the freedom it enjoys which can only be achieved if the ownership of the press

is not confined to one party and through issuing legislation that guarantees the freedom of expression and the press."

Both Mr. Zuheiri and Mr. Mahmoud Al Sharif, a well-known Jordanian journalist and editor of the Arabic daily Al Dustour, stressed that "the citizen should have access to the media and to express their opinions through it".

Mr. Sharif said that "the media is monopolised by the state and the elite who have repudiated the other social stratas from expressing their views in the media."

According to Mr. Sharif, it is high time to end the monopoly of the elite on the media and to enter the stage of broadening the base of those who control the media and of its beneficiaries.

"But this process of transformation in the media is largely connected with the Arab nation's ability to shift from totalitarianism to democracy."

Mr. Sharif strongly criticised the Arab media because "it has played into the hands of the elite as a means of subjugating other stratas".

He called for the development of press legislations to develop the media and to deepen the concepts of the freedom of the press.



One of the 350 exhibits by the school students of the Nazareth College which go on show at the French Cultural Centre today (J.T. file photo)

Nazareth College show to open at French centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Her Highness Princess Taghreed, the Nazareth College in co-operation with the French Cultural Centre will hold an exhibition of paintings by the college students Monday, here at the French Cultural Centre.

There will be 350 paintings on show at the exhibition, the product of a whole school year by the college's students.

Artist Fuad Mimi, the art teacher at the college, who also organised and supervised the work of

the students — told the Jordan Times that the one-week exhibition is an annual event organised by the college and the French Centre to promote art in the society and to encourage students to develop their talents.

Mr. Mimi said it is vital to encourage the artistic inclinations of people at a young age in order to achieve the best results.

"Art is one of the most important elements shaping the personalities and way of thinking of people", Mr. Mimi added.

FRIENDS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Regrets to announce

The cancellation of their trip to Petra scheduled for Thursday May 24, 1984

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Responsible Editor: **MOHAMMAD ABAD**

Managing Editor: **GEORGE S. HAWATHEN**

Senior Editor: **FRANK C. KEOURI**

Editorial and advertising offices: **University Road, P.O. Box 6718, Amman, Jordan**

Telephone: 663220, 663225 Telex: 1497 AMMAN JO

Telex: JORDTIMES Amman, Jordan

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Attacks on Arab tankers give war new dimension

By Bruce Cobb
Reuter

BAHRAIN — Attacks on Arab tankers in the Gulf this week have given the Iran-Iraq conflict a new dimension, posing seriously the question of whether shipping in the waterway now runs the danger of assault by both sides in the long-running war.

Iraq has for a long time acknowledged responsibility for air and naval attacks on foreign merchant vessels using Iranian ports at the northern end of the Gulf.

Baghdad has declared unilaterally a no-go area for shipping which takes in Iran's major oil terminal at Kharg Island and the ports of Bushire and Bandar Khomeini to try to halt cargo movements.

Dozens of ships are reported to

have suffered attacks from Iraqi planes or naval gunners in or near the zone.

But Baghdad's war planners were noticeably swift this week to deny that their forces had anything to do with the latest attacks on two Kuwaiti tankers, carried out on Sunday morning and Friday afternoon.

Tehran has said little so far about the war at sea beyond repeated threats to close the Gulf if Iraq disrupts Iranian oil shipments.

And it has admitted no responsibility for damage to the two Kuwaiti tankers — the 18,012-ton Bahrah, holed in the starboard side, and the 55,620-ton Umm Casbah, which was less seriously hit.

But a report from Washington Friday night coincided with gro-

wing speculation amongst shipping and oil sources in the Gulf that Iran may now have involved itself in the war at sea.

ABC Television News quoted U.S. intelligence as saying a U.S. AWACS radar warning plane, based in Saudi Arabia, had reported only Iranian aircraft in the area when the Umm Casbah was attacked on Sunday.

Crews from many of the vessels hit in earlier Gulf attacks have almost invariably reported that no aircraft were sighted before the missiles struck, suggesting that the Iraqis use weapons fired from over the horizon.

But this time, according to shipping sources here and in Kuwait, crewmen on one of the Kuwaiti tankers reported unidentified aircraft making two or three passes

before the attack. Some of the rockets they launched appeared smaller in size than those so far used by Iraq.

Both Kuwaiti tankers were sailing a route down the Western side of the Gulf, through a narrow shipping corridor inside the offshore Saudi oilfields — much further West than the vessels involved in previous Iraqi-launched attacks.

Baghdad's Al Iraq newspaper Saturday posed the obvious question: "If the unidentified aircraft which attacked the (two Kuwaiti) tankers did not come from Iran, where else did they come from?"

It repeated Iraqi denials of involvement and charged that Iran made the latest attacks to disrupt and harm relations amongst the Gulf States supporting Iraq's war effort with billions of dollars in

aid.

Iraq, like Iran — but for different reasons — would have a big interest in disrupting the flow of Gulf oil to the West.

Iraq wants to cut off oil revenues feeding Tehran's war machine and the Iranians want effectively to dissuade the Arab Gulf states, principally Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, from supplying the money to finance Iraq's arms deals.

As one Western diplomat puts it: "When one is at war, you either increase your revenue to meet the military bills or you try to ensure that the other side can not."

Whether Iraq or Iran hit the ships, the problem for their owners remains the same. Shipping sources say the attacks are bound to deter a growing number of

owners and operators from risking the northern Gulf routes.

This week's flare-up has already triggered a sharp increase in insurance rates for ships using Kharg, Bushire and other Gulf ports.

No less concerned are the states of the Gulf's Western shoreline, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the Sultanate of Oman at the southern entrance to the Gulf.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have been selling around 350,000 barrels a day of their oil on Iraq's behalf, as well as giving it generous financial aid.

And Iran, clearly, would like the Saudi and Kuwaiti administrations to use the leverage this gives them in pressuring Iraq to end, or ease, its blockade of Iranian ports.

Spread in the Gulf

BEYOND the current escalation in the Gulf there lies a point where the stalemate between Iraq and Iran has to break. Either the whole oil-rich area will be engulfed in dangerous fighting with unpredictable consequences, not only for the Arabs and Iranians but also for the West, or Tehran will be made to come to its senses and end the war with Baghdad through peaceful means and negotiations. It is hard to tell which way things will go from here, but it is certain that the party with the greater powers of calculation will win the higher stakes.

By blocking Iran's Kharg Island (fifty-five per cent of Iran's oil exports was cut through the siege, according to Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan), Iraq has succeeded in opening the door for the international dimension to play its much-needed role in ending the Gulf war. That initial stage reached, Baghdad could then maintain the momentum to reach the turning point in putting an end to the whole conflict, even if that meant a direct confrontation between Iran and the rest of the Arabs in the Gulf.

So far, Saudi Arabia and its partners in the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) have reacted promptly but coolly to Iranian strikes against their tankers. They have taken the issue to the Arab League and the United Nations, but have refrained from asking for U.S. and European help in countering Iran's threats to their shipping lanes. What good this action will bring is as yet unclear; but it is not uncertain that these countries will soon have to face a situation of direct hostilities with the Iranian regime.

Much of what develops next will be a function of superpower politics and of other regional factors such as the situation on the ground between Iran and Iraq. The U.S. seems to have opted for diplomacy to run its full course before the contemplation to intervene directly in the conflict; the Soviet Union is waiting in the wings; and Europe and Japan, with their markets flooded with oil, are unlikely to bring pressure to bear on Washington to act under these circumstances.

The trump card is of course in Iraqi hands. If Baghdad refuses to halt its raids against ships going to and coming out of Kharg for any price less than a complete end to the war, it can maintain enormous pressure on the world to support its cause, at any risk needed. And consequently, Saudi Arabia and its GCC allies will have to cope with inescapable probabilities. To use their own forces to defend their ports and ships is one. To play the American hand, reluctant as the Saudis may be to do that, to deter the Iranians from blockading the Strait of Hormuz, is another. And the third probability for Riyadh is that of putting real pressure on the Syrians to halt their support for the Khomeini regime and re-open the blocked pipeline for Iraq to resume exporting oil through it.

None of these options is easy, but none other exists to save the Gulf from a disastrous conflagration.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: For an international conference

IN HIS statements published by the French Magazine Le Nouvel Observateur, King Hussein said that the United States cannot be considered as a mediator in the Middle East Conflict because it is an ally of Israel. He also said that Israel's settlement policies in the occupied Arab lands would not have continued had it not been for the U.S. financial and economic aid.

In the light of this fact, it becomes clear that a unilateral U.S. role in the region is futile and it becomes essential that an international conference in which the Soviet Union, Europe and the Middle East parties can discuss measures to end the Arab-Israeli conflict is convened. This conference should also discuss a way for establishing a just and durable peace.

As the United States continues to find itself unable to tackle the issue unilaterally, the Europeans should urge it to accept the convening of an international conference. Nevertheless, such a conference can never make up for the existence of a new Arab strategy based on real solidarity and joint action.

Such a position will enable the Arabs to face various challenges and can also encourage world nations to come to an agreement on the necessity of finding a solution to our problem. We also hope that the United States will realise before it is too late that its total support for Israel will make it lose its friends and credibility and will also endanger its interests in the Middle East region.

Al Dustour: Israel, U.S. obstruct peace

KING HUSSEIN pointed out in his interview with the French Magazine Le Nouvel Observateur that the Palestinians and Jordanians belong to the same family and face the same destiny as they confront common challenges and threats. The two are trying to reach a unified formula for their future relations and a way of liberating their occupied territory and saving its people from Zionist occupation.

The Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue has covered good grounds over the past few months and has been instrumental in bolstering Palestinian-Jordanian relations. However, the Israeli transgression and total U.S. support for the Zionist aggressors have blocked all paths to peace. Moreover, the weak and divided Arab Nation has also been a negative element in the process of peace.

As the Likud coalition continues its drive to establish settlements and rejects all international peace bids, the U.S. continues to offer unlimited political, military and financial support to the Israelis, thus enabling them to pursue their aggressive policies. This has of course cost the U.S. its credibility in the region, but has also not solved the chronic issue.

Jordan, out of its commitment to respect international principles and U.N. resolutions has been calling for the convening of an international conference to settle the Middle East issue and find a way of restoring the rights of the Palestinian people.

Participation of the international community, especially Western Europe in the peace-making process has become essential in view of the current situation in this region and in the light of Israel's practices and defiance of international principles, endangering world peace.

Sawt Al Shaab: Early call

THE RECENT deterioration in the Arab region situation's especially in the occupied Arab lands would not have been brought about to its present low had it not been for the indifferent attitudes displayed by most Arab states. Of course there are certain Arab quarters and foreign nations which benefit from the continuation of conflict and violence in the Middle East region either politically or economically. The United States with its single handed approach to the issues in this region has brought about a disruption of peace efforts.

In the light of all this, King Hussein, as far back as 1981, has called for the convening of an international conference to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict and has continuously called for such a conference lest it would be too late to do anything. An international conference, attended by all parties to the conflict plus the superpowers and other world nations would definitely be a better forum to discuss international issues such as ours, and would offer the best atmosphere for handling such a chronic problem as the continued Israeli occupation of Arab land.

Indifferent attitudes by Arab or foreign countries can by no means serve the cause of peace and therefore everything should be done to ensure that such a conference is held as soon as possible.

Alfonsin striving for new social formulas against the odds

By Douglas Grant Mine
Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES — President Raul Alfonsin, a commanding personality who rode to victory on a wave of euphoria, has been forced to pare or abandon some of the grand projects he considered crucial to a "new Argentina."

Plans to forge a new political movement and efforts to stave off demands of international creditors have been hampered by economic and political reality.

The return to civilian rule last Dec. 10 after more than nine years of repressive military dictatorship provided fertile ground for hyperbole. Mr. Alfonsin declared the beginning of 10 years of democracy, progress and national unity in a country that for the past half-century has been characterised by unfulfilled potential authoritarianism and often-violent factionalism.

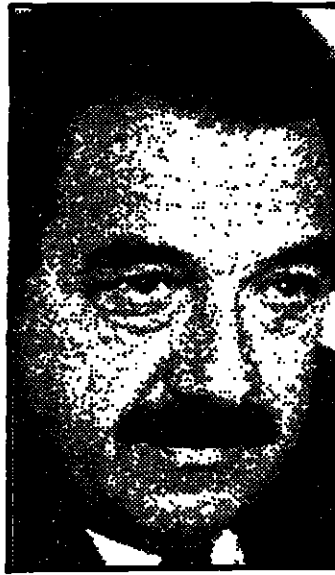
The burly country lawyer and career politician moved swiftly and forcefully against the armed forces. Just three days after taking office, he ordered the court-martial of nine members of former juntas for their part in the ab-

duction, torture and murder of thousands of suspected Leftists during the late 1970s. He purged the armed forces' upper echelons by prematurely "retiring" three fourths of the active generals and admirals.

Analysis of the radical civic union's unexpected yet resounding electoral victory have agreed that Mr. Alfonsin's image of honesty, morality and straightforwardness weighed heavily in the voters' choice. He told a jammed Plaza de Mayo after taking the presidential oath he was the servant of all Argentines, the most humble.

But the humility is not boundless. During the campaign and the first two months of his administration the 57-year-old mustachioed president talked in private and during frequent speeches of the "third historical movement" he intended to forge.

According to Mr. Alfonsin, the first movement revolved in the 1920s around two-time Radical President Hipolito Yrigoyen, who integrated Mediterranean immigrants and their offspring into an upwardly mobile middle-class majority with an emerging radical



Raul Alfonsin

movement.

The second movement was headed by army-strongman turned president Juan Peron and his charismatic wife, Eva, who in the years following World War II transformed fleeing and heterogeneous labour organisations into a populist machine that dom-

inated Argentine political life for the next 40 years.

But the unity sought by Mr. Alfonsin has proved elusive. He continues to insist in speeches that all must row together if the ship of state is to progress, but mention of the "third movement" has been conspicuously absent for the past two months. Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli admitted that the hoped-for child had been miscarried.

The Peronists, who continue to represent a majority of blue-collar workers, simply have no intention of allowing themselves to be converted or supplanted. Mr. Alfonsin crashed against that determination in March when the senate, with its Peronist plurality, rejected Mr. Alfonsin's union reorganisation legislation.

The bill, a keystone of the Radicals' campaign platform, was intended to "democratise" the Peronist-dominated unions through immediate state-supervised elections providing representation for minority — in effect non-Peronist — factions.

Mr. Alfonsin has also given up early tough-talking on the staggering foreign debt.

Until late March, he insisted the country would pay what he termed the "legitimate" part of the \$43.6 billion debt inherited from the generals, but on its own terms and creditors could take it leave it.

His finger jabbing the air, the veins of his neck swollen by emphatic oratory, Mr. Alfonsin vowed from the balcony of the pink presidential palace to the cheering throng below that Argentina will not accept impositions from the International Monetary Fund in exchange for renegotiation of the debt.

Only hours away from default on overdue interest payments to private foreign banks, the government paid last March 31 with money loaned by four other Latin American nations. The U.S. Treasury promised to lead Argentina the \$300 million it needs to pay back the Latin countries, but only when Argentina reaches an agreement with the IMF on a domestic economic policy consistent with on-time payment of a renegotiated debt.

The IMF traditionally demands that debtor nations impose austerity measures and there is no indication it intends to make an

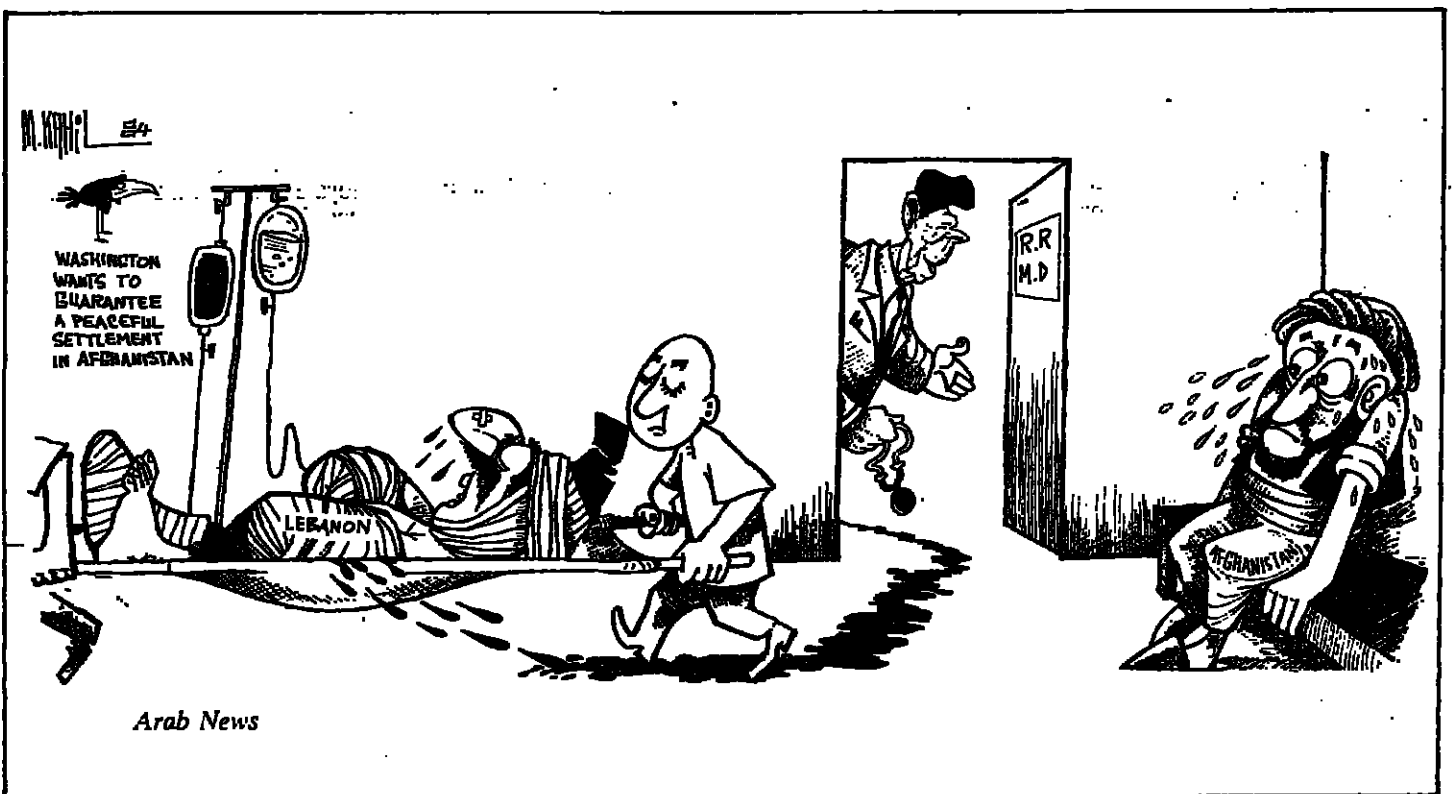
exception in Argentina's case.

Mr. Alfonsin works long days and travels outside the capital for factory inaugurations, town centennials and conventions. The hectic pace he has set and the significant setback he has suffered have left him often looking tired. But he continues to give the impression of a generally merry character.

He is witty and reportedly a good joke-teller. In personal encounters, he shows differential country manners — the product of his upbringing in the lakeside town of Chascomus, south of Buenos Aires. His hearty appetite has him on the verge of obesity, and he plays tennis when he can to keep in shape.

He likes to dance the tango and showed up at a few of the open air inauguration night festivities around town to dance with his wife Maria, with whom he has six grown children.

When he returned to Chascomus to rest after last October's general election victory, the townspeople threw a party for him at the Social Club and he took a turn on the floor with each of the 50 women present.



Arab News

Race to succeed Trudeau hots up

The Canadian Liberals have surged ahead of their Tory rivals in the opinion polls as a result of intense public interest aroused by the party's leadership contest. Bernard Slamon reports.

TORONTO — Mr. Pierre Trudeau's decision to retire from the Canadian prime ministership has profoundly stirred up Canadian politics.

Not only is a group of prominent Liberals, at their head Mr. John Turner, former minister of finance, fighting for the succession as party leader, but more surprisingly, the Liberals, long in the doldrums, have suddenly shot ahead of the Progressive Conservatives in the opinion polls.

It remains to be seen whether this is a false spring or whether the knowledge that Mr. Trudeau is going has really reversed Liberal fortunes. Immensely popular though he was in the late 1960s and early 1970s, under the impact of recession his reputation has waned. In the west of the country especially, Mr. Trudeau is widely disliked by voters.

The new Liberal leader will be chosen at a party convention in Ottawa on June 14-16, to be attended by more than 3,000 delegates. Their choice will step up to become the country's 17th prime minister, at any rate until the election that must be held by next February.

Mr. Trudeau has failed to groom a successor and the party is paying the price in the form of an unusually divisive and at times acrimonious leadership campaign.

Apart from a brief interval in 1979, Mr. Trudeau has been prime minister continuously for the past 16 years, and many Liberals agree that the time has come

to sweep out the stables. Seven candidates are vying for the leadership. Mr. Turner, 54, the front runner, is the only one not currently a minister — he resigned from the government in 1975 to join one of Canada's upper crust law firms.

Mr. Turner was a leadership candidate at the 1968 convention when Mr. Trudeau won. That convention followed the surprise resignation of the then Prime Minister Lester Pearson, the architect of much of the pro-French Canadian language legislation which Mr. Trudeau eventually implemented.

Mr. Turner refused at that time to commit his convention delegates either to Mr. Trudeau or to the other front runner, Mr. Robert Winters, former head of Rio Algom Mines, the Canadian subsidiary of Rio Tinto Zinc.

Mr. Trudeau carried the vote after several ballots, immediately convened parliament and went on to become prime minister in the "Trudeau-mania" election campaign the same year.

After his resignation in 1975, Mr. Turner joined the boards of several blue-chip companies, including the U.S. construction group Bechtel, where the present U.S. secretary of state and defence also once worked.

Mr. Turner has wide international contacts and, more than any of the other candidates, he is unblemished by the failures and excesses of the past few years of the Trudeau era. Because he

owes little to those still in the government he might be able to revitalise a tired-looking administration.

But his election as Liberal leader, while still likely, looks less assured now than it did a month or two ago. An "Anybody But Turner" campaign has gathered pace, spawning a new entrant in the race, Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan, who has no hope of winning and is widely believed to be running solely to strengthen the anti-Turner forces.

Mr. Turner's re-entry into politics has not been smooth. In Quebec, where the majority speaks French, he said he approved of the province's French-first legislation, but then appeared to back those resisting Francophone rights in Manitoba where the French are in a minority. He promised to cut the federal budget deficit, but it vague on how it will be done. Mr. Turner has issued several "clarifications" of his policy statements, denting the impression he would like to create that he is a bold, decisive leader.

His years out of politics are a liability in some ways. He has had considerable difficulty shaking off the image of an affluent, big-city lawyer whose style and policies are barely distinguishable from those of Mr. Brian Mulroney, the businessman who will lead the Tories in the election campaign.

The only candidate with a chance of defeating Mr. Turner at the convention is Mr. Jean Chretien, the energy minister, who has held eight portfolios, ranging from finance to Indian affairs. He has made a considerable impression

on the rank and file with his self-deprecating jokes and reminders of his humble upbringing as the 18th of 19 children.

Delegates to the convention would probably be willing to break with the party's custom of rotating English- and French-speaking leaders if they were convinced that Mr. Chretien could keep the party in power at the next election. But there are strong doubts that he can.

As one of Mr. Chretien's own advisers says, he is "a fixer, rather than a thinker." He is unlikely to draw many votes in the general election in Anglophone, oil-rich western Canada, where the Liberals hope to pick up a few parliamentary seats to make up for those they may lose further east. The Liberal Party holds no seats west of Winnipeg at present.

One remote possibility is that dissatisfied delegates will turn to a compromise candidate. The most likely choice would be Mrs. Iona Campagnolo, the popular and articulate president of the Liberal Party. Mrs. Campagnolo has turned down approaches to run for the leadership, but pressure on her to change her mind continues.

On the other hand, there is ample evidence that the Liberals are far from happy with the present choice of candidates. Many delegates, currently being elected by local party associations, are refusing to make their preferences known until the convention next month. Some Liberals are even muttering quietly that, for all his faults, it's a pity that Pierre Trudeau isn't standing again — Financial Times news feature.

Student protests still play role in Korea

By Edwin Q. White
Associated Press

SEOUL — Student protests, which broke out anew on Thursday, have a long tradition in Korea as catalysts for change.

On Thursday, stone-throwing students and police firing tear gas clashed at a major university in Seoul. The demonstration was one of several that erupted on campuses in Seoul on the day before the fourth anniversary of the Kwangju uprising, a significant date on the calendar of dissent in South Korea.

Almost every day during Pope John Paul II's visit this month, there were some kinds of protests, most of them carried out by students. One resulted in a whiff of tear gas for the Pontiff and sharp embarrassment for the government.

Demonstrations, some of which brought violent confrontations between students and police, were not directly critical of the Pope's visit. But some students saw it as serving to build up the image of the government of President Chun Doo-Hwan, an effort they oppose.

Cries from students at some of the demonstrations included, "The Pope should come here and see our fight for democracy."

Student protests are firmly rooted in Korean history. Activism by students reaches back to the days of the early dynasties, when Confucian scholars and their followers played respected roles. During the Japanese colonial period from 1910 to 1945, students played a significant role in independence movements.

Spring, when the weather warms after the bitter Korean winter, normally brings outbursts of student dissident activity. Some of the complaints centre initially on campus issues.

Almost invariably, however, they soon carry over to criticism of the government and what the dissidents see as a rule that restricts human rights and freedoms.

Calls for democracy and "down with the dictatorship" ... down with fascism" have been familiar themes of student protest under the present government and earlier regimes.

During the colonial era, among the most bitterly opposed Japanese acts were imposition of the curricula of Japanese schools on Korean schools and a ban on teaching the Korean language.

After the Republic of Korea was founded in 1948, students, along with many others, were for a time enthusiastic backers of the country's first efforts towards constitutional government.

Government authorities claim that those actually taking part in such actions represent only a tiny

fraction — no more than a few thousand — of the nearly 800,000 students enrolled in South Korea's four-year colleges and universities.

They also claim that a minority is led by a few hardcore radicals. The bloody 1950-53 Korean war left a still divided country, and in the South, increasing social disorders and hostility towards the government of the first president, the old patriot Syngman Rhee.

Students demonstrations played a major role in Mr. Rhee's resignation in 1960 and continued to try to influence state affairs.

With the political scene disarray, May 16, 1961 brought a military coup under Maj. Gen. Park Chung-Hee, who became president. Student, political and religious dissidents sought to function under the Park regime, but often harsh crackdowns kept them largely in check even if still defiant.

Mr. Park's assassination by his intelligence agency chief in October 1980 brought another period of political turbulence, but at the same time hopes for the establishment of real democracy. Again, students were in the forefront.

But widespread demonstrations erupted in South Korea's major cities in what came to be known as the "Seoul Spring" of 1980. Tough military clampdowns were ordered to quell dissent, and on May 18 a major uprising took place in the southern city of Kwangju again with students in the front ranks.

It went on for 10 days before being put down by troops in bitter fighting that left hundreds dead and wounded.

Strict controls were put on the country's campuses, including the stationing of plainclothes police agents on school grounds and in school buildings to enable them to react immediately at the first sign of student protest.

Outside school gates and at other strategic locations, busloads of combat police with shields and other protective gear, tear gas and pepperfog stood ready to move against demonstrations.

Nevertheless, each Spring and occasionally at other times, student restiveness attempted to break through the surface calm with rallies and demonstrations. Most were short-lived and failed to generate outside support.

This Spring, the government took a new tack, announcing that school discipline and campus problems would be left to school authorities. The on-campus agents were withdrawn, and the riot police stayed out of school grounds, reacting only when students attempted to take their protests into the streets.

Developing countries falling victim to fraud

Developing countries are so desperate for funds that they often fall victim to bogus moneylenders, writes Charles Batchelor.

LONDON — Developing countries desperate for funds present an easy target for the professional trickster involved in the advance fee racket. Once the victim has taken the bait, considerations of prestige and loss of face may mean he is unable to wriggle free.

A finance minister or central bank official will not want to admit to his president that the deal he has been negotiating for so long is a fraud.

One investigator recalls warning a visiting minister that the deal he was about to sign had been set up by a known trickster. But later the same day the contract was signed.

The minister could not afford to admit that he had been fooled so he went ahead hoping against hope the loan would materialise.

"In many cases the money is never going to be handed over and the transaction is a complete figment of the trickster's imagination," said a senior official of the Commonwealth Secretariat. "Or the money may be forthcoming but it is a product of organised crime and it is being laundered."

It is generally not too difficult for the trickster to establish credibility since there is not much in the way of financial infrastructure in these countries and no way to check the credentials of the trickster.

In another case a trickster persuaded the president of an African country that he could arrange the loan of millions of dollars to build schools and airports. The country's London embassy — acting

in good faith — assured banks which queried the transaction that it was genuine.

But the deal fell through when banks grew suspicious of the amount of promissory notes the central bank of the country had issued to allow the deal to go ahead and it was stopped.

While the advance fees paid may only amount to a small fraction of the proposed loans, the loss of even small sums can damage a poor country's economy.

Advance fee fraud is so serious a threat that it can amount to economic sabotage in the view of some investigators. There are suspicions that in some cases deals have been set up by hostile governments expressly to damage another country's economy.

In a recent speech to the International Maritime Bureau, set up to combat maritime crime, Dr. Barry Rider, chief Com-

monwealth fraud officer, said: "Countries cannot afford the diversion and misappropriation of funds on this scale and it cannot be doubted that these frauds have a direct effect on the allocation of scarce resources."

"A small country cheated in a deal involving the purchase of a small aircraft had to cancel the building of a new hospital and two schools."

Businessmen, who might be expected to take a more sophisticated view of financial matters, are also a common target for the advanced fee trickster.

"It is a curious thing how a businessman could be so naive as to give money to a total stranger on the promise of arranging a loan," says Det. Supt. Gerald Squires, of the City of London Fraud Squad. "The trickster does it by putting together an impressive set of documents."

During times of economic recession businessmen may be desperate for funds to maintain failing companies. Even when funds are not so tight the offer of a loan on attractive terms persuades many to relax their normal caution.

So sophisticated has the advance fee racket become that it has spawned a service industry providing ready-made kits of all the documents needed to put together a fraud. The Fraud Squad has come across a number of these kits containing documents with blank spaces for the name of the victim and the sums of "lend".

"This saves the trickster having to go to a bent or incurious solicitor to put together eight pages of legal mumbo jumbo," said Det. Supt. Squires.

The trickster obtains letters of authorisation from a bank or solicitor for an unrelated transaction. The apparently legitimate deal discussed with the bank never takes place but the documents are used to authenticate the fraud.

Alternatively, the trickster takes the name of a well-known bank or institution and modifies it slightly by adding Inc. or Ltd. In some cases "banks" have even been set up in offshore centres for the sole purpose of carrying out the fraud.

With an impressive set of documents available, the trickster may fly his victim to London and put him up in an expensive West End hotel where he has set up an impressive operation with secretaries, telex machines and all the trappings of an apparently successful business.

"If we are looking we might find

telexes — bogus ones — in a dustbin," says Det. Chief Insp. Leslie Briggs, head of C Squad at the Metropolitan Police Fraud Squad. "But these tricksters are very professional and they don't hang around. It takes 24 hours and they are gone. They do make sure, though, that they pay their hotel and other bills."

The trickster usually tells his intended victim that the money is coming from the Middle East — Saudi princes are a favourite source — though in one instance 10 wealthy spinsters were cited as providers of the funds.

If the borrower presses for more information the trickster says his source — if it is in the Middle East — does not want his identity disclosed because of Islamic rules prohibiting the earning of interest.

"A lot of these countries are so hard up they don't question the source of funds," said the official at the Commonwealth Secretariat. "The trickster says that if inquiries are made the principals will pull out."

In spite of a number of successes in warning the intended victims before the fraud has been committed, investigators believe they have only seen the tip of the iceberg.

"I have been surprised at how many times the same name comes up," said one. "We are not putting them out of business. We must attack it in a different way."

"This is not just a law enforcement problem. It is a political problem. We have tended to play a game, the rules of which are not even acknowledged by the other side." — Financial Times news feature.

Krak Des Chevaliers: Finest Crusade castle

By Michael Sheridan

KRAK DES CHEVALIERS, Syria — Only the roar of Syrian Mig fighters streaking through the clear sky disturbs the long slumber of Krak Des Chevaliers, said to be the finest crusader castle ever built.

With the snowy slopes of Mount Lebanon in the distant south the Mediterranean coast to the West and the Syrian hinterland to the north and east, its strategic position is as commanding today as it was in the far-off days of the crusades.

Atop a mountain dominating the surrounding country, its thick walls and crenellated turrets tower above the valleys, a perfectly preserved example of fortress design. To historians and architects, Krak remains the paragon of castles, a stone testimony to the genius of military builders in the middle ages.

To the rulers of modern Syria it stands as a mute reminder of foreign occupation and Muslim battles to rid the land of the medieval Christian crusader kingdoms.

The castle's political significance is made abundantly clear by the officially approved guidebook which recalls the day when "the crusaders came from every part of Europe to invade our lands."

"It was a long occupation but it did not withstand the liberation movement which put an end to it... this and the other citadels remain as testimony to the ability of the Arab people of Syria to free themselves under all circumstances," the guidebook states.

There had been a fortress at Krak for centuries but the castle as it exists today was begun by crus-

saders from the Frankish kingdom of Antioch who captured the site in 1110. Successive generations of crusader lords added to it and repaired damage from frequent earthquakes.

The fortified castle resisted all efforts by the great Muslim leader Saladin to take it and fell only in 1271 to the "liberation movement" of the Mamluk Sultan Baibars from Egypt.

These days, few foreign visitors make the precipitous journey off the main Tartous-Homs road to see the castle.

But the Syrian government hopes to boost tourism and Krak would be a likely leading attraction in a country where memories of the crusades are still alive. The surrender of Krak was a major point in the Mamluk campaign against the feudal crusader kingdoms.

Nonetheless, the war against the crusaders is today regarded by the Arab nationalists who rule Syria as a glorious chapter in the country's struggle for identity. At the height of Syria's confrontation with the United States last autumn in Lebanon, the Damascus media's columnists were quick to draw historical parallels.

Then Foreign Minister (now vice-president) Abdul-Halim Khaddam told a French newspaper that the four-nation force in Lebanon (drawn from the United States, Britain, France and Italy) "reminded us of the crusades."

Now, with United States policy in Lebanon in tatters and the Western troops all gone, the ramparts of Krak seem to be a good place to ponder the unexpectedness of history.

Taiwan cracks down on watch counterfeiters

By John Nagi

TAIPEI — Taiwan's notorious reputation as one of the world's commercial counterfeit centres is under threat after a series of police raids in which millions of dollars worth of fake items were seized.

In recent raids police said they found more than 50,000 fake Rolex, Longine and Cartier watches, and 2,000 Du Pont pens among other luxury products.

After years of turning a blind eye to the illicit trade, the reason for the sudden turnabout by the Taipei authorities is simple. Taiwan is under strong foreign pressure, especially from the United States, its largest trading partner, to clamp down on the illegal trade.

Washington, which has an annual trade of \$16 billion with the island, has told the Nationalist government to stop the piracy or face retaliatory action.

The Americans said Taiwanese pirates accounted for nearly 60 per cent of the \$6 billion worth of counterfeit goods which flood the American market every year.

During one raid, police entered an underground workshop making thousands of fake Rolex watches weekly. The police were impressed by the scale and efficiency of the plant, which resembled a respectable Geneva watch firm in all but name.

"On one side of the factory workers were putting the final touches to the Seiko mechanisms, others were busy fitting these into fake Rolex chassis," a senior police official said.

A bogus Rolex, which appears strikingly similar to the real thing, goes on sale in Taipei for about \$1,000 to \$2,000.

To counteract such successful

illegal operations, the Taiwan Parliament recently passed bills increasing the maximum punishment for forgery and trademark infringement from three to five years in jail, and fines from 30,000 Taiwan dollars (\$750) to 150,000 dollars (\$3,750).

An agreement has also been signed with the British Books Development Council under which will British publications would be protected by Taiwan's copyright laws in return for British help in promoting Taiwanese books abroad.

A Foreign Ministry official, who declined to be named, said he was often asked by visiting U.S. congressmen where they could get the fake watches.

"We just have to play deaf. Too many counterfeit products are detrimental to Taiwan's image abroad," he said.

He said customers had to order in advance and collect the goods later, instead of the open transactions of the past.

The official panel, which works closely with the police, said the government would continue to crack down on the Rolex pirates who had made fortunes from the illicit trade.

A few underground manufacturers and retailers said the profit margin was low. "We are only doing a small business, earning a few bucks here and there to satisfy the consumers' demand," one factory owner said.

When told that two to three million fake watches were sold in Taiwan, mostly to foreigners as souvenirs, he said: "I didn't know we made that many Rolexes a year. But I think it's good business which brings us more foreign exchange."

Railway romance draws tourists to Brazil

By Allan Reditt

CURITIBA, Brazil — The age of steam has long passed on the Curitiba-Parana railway, but the line's extraordinary engineering and breathtaking scenery are still pulling in the enthusiasts.

Tourists come from as far as the United States and Europe to travel from this southern Brazilian city to the coastal port of Parana, a descent of 1,000 metres through dense tropical forests.

Built nearly 100 years ago — the first train set off on Feb. 2, 1885 — what is billed as Brazil's most spectacular railway starts off sedately across the plateau from Curitiba, the capital of Parana state.

But soon after leaving this clean, prosperous-looking city with a strong European flavour left by early German and Italian immigrants, the line begins its plunge through the forests to the hot and humid coast.

In the next 80 kilometres, the

train crosses 73 bridges and viaducts, passes through 13 tunnels and appears to lean precariously over some 400 earthworks.

Outside are waterfalls, tree ferns, matted bamboo, canopies of deep purple flowers and white lilies carpeting the embankments. Clouds scale the peaks.

It is easy to understand why, before 1885, the only way to travel from the wealth of the interior to the coasts was by specially-trained mules using trails made by Carijó Indians.

When the line was constructed, mate tea was the region's most important export. Soon tea was overtaken by coffee and the line still carries some coffee, cotton, soy and bitumen, although most goes by road.

Parana sprawls around a lagoon 29 kilometres from the sea with a hot, languid air belying the fact that it is Brazil's second-largest port after Santos. It is the main port for neighbouring landlocked Paraguay, 14 hours inland by truck.

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After the shock is gone you decide to lie on the sand and take some sun. All of a sudden there is a shadow over you and you open your eyes to see two men hovering over you. As they seem not to be willing to move, you decide to leave the beach and to have a drink round the pool. There you see unaccompanied men wearing dark suits, sweating from the heat and drinking pints of beer while practising their favourite hobby "Tom peeping".

Every time a woman wearing a swimming suit passes, you can hear flowery and spicy comments. In spite of all this you decided to have your bitter lemon peacefully. Soon after a waiter brings you a plate of ice cream, followed by one of the "peeping Toms" the waiter tells you that this ice cream is offered to you by this gentleman. The man in question smiles and tells you that he would like to make your acquaintance. He stammers and walks shakily, apparently because of over drinking. In short this incident goes on and the man is not likely to leave you. Some of your fellow citizens who have witnessed this scene want to defend you.

Fuming, you ask to see the manager of the hotel, and you realise from his explanations that the occupants of the terrace are not hotel residents but only visitors from a neighbouring city who come to "have a drink" in Aqaba.

Shocked by all this, you decide to rent a pedal boat just to calm yourself. While going to the counter and right on the way, twenty men in "kefleh" with red faces from the heat and beer, study you and comment on your looks.

It is apparent that they are too many for you and you decide to forget about the pedal boat.

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Italy awarded 1990 World Cup finals

ZURICH (R) — Italy, the champions three times, were awarded the 1990 World Soccer Cup finals over lone rivals the Soviet Union by the International Football Federation (FIFA) executive committee Saturday.

The holders, tipped as likely hosts, became near-certainities following the Soviet withdrawal from the summer Olympics. Sources close to FIFA had said that the Soviet decision to shun Los Angeles could sway the waverers to prefer Italy.

But FIFA President Joao Havelange of Brazil told a news conference after the meeting that he did not think this was the reason for the decision.

The committee decided to hold a secret ballot, from which Italy emerged the clear choice with the maximum 16 votes.

Besides Havelange, West German Hermann Neuburger, Jacques Georges of France, interim president of the European Football Union, and Viacheslav Koloskov of the Soviet Union did not vote. One member of the 21-man committee was absent.

Italian football representatives later presented their venue plans. Fifteen stadiums are available in 14 towns, with a total capacity of just under one million.

Rome's Flaminio stadium, scene of the 1934 final, can house 130,000, while the next largest, San Paolo in Naples, holds 85,000.

They are closely followed by Milan's Meazza (82,000) and Rome's Olympia Stadium (80,000) where the European Cup final takes place on May 30.

The remaining arenas, all with a capacity of 40,000 to 70,000 are in Turin, Genoa, Verona, Udine, Bologna, Florence, Ascoli, Perugia, Bari, Cagliari and Palermo.

The committee also decided to ask for all files and documents relating to the Belgian bribes scandal.

Until FIFA pronounce a final ruling, the bans will remain valid in all its member associations, Havelange said.

He said that the executive had spent much time studying player and spectator violence. It was decided to form a special commission which will report to the executive meeting in December when definite sanctions will be discussed in an attempt to combat the increasing problem.

FIFA General Secretary Joseph Blatter said the committee had again rejected a new appeal from North Korea against a two-year ban imposed in November, 1982.

A reprieve would have enabled the North Korean youth team to participate in the qualifying rounds of the World Youth Championship to be held in Chile next year.

Blatter said the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) had been fined \$20,000 and severely cautioned for not implementing FIFA rulings within the USSF's jurisdiction.

FIFA had threatened the USSF with expulsion last month, following a report from the Danish soccer authorities that Dane Per Roentved, who had been refused a clearance certificate for an international transfer, was still playing in the United States with the Wichita Wings despite a FIFA ban.

The USSF had submitted fresh information relevant to the case. Blatter said that while the threat of expulsion had been lifted, it had been made clear to the USSF what future infringements of FIFA statutes could mean.

Irappato has been selected as the 12th stadium for the 1986 finals in Mexico in preference to coastal Veracruz, Neuburger, the organising committee chairman, said.

Matches will begin at 1100 and 1500 hours local time because of television transmissions to Europe.

Normally two matches will be played daily, but on one day four matches will be staged. On the third day of the preliminary round, benefiting from experience gained in Argentina and Spain, both matches in each group will be played at the same time, he added.

The opening match will be on May 31 and the final on June 29, both in the Aztec stadium, Mexico City.

The executive committee also decided that if the Soviet Union and the other countries maintained their boycott of the Olympic soccer tournament in Los Angeles, the countries which would replace them would come from the same continental grouping.



CUP GLORY — Everton captain Kevin Ratcliffe holds the English Football Association (F.A.) Cup trophy aloft after his side's 2-0 victory over Watford in the F.A. Cup final at Wembley stadium, London on Saturday.

Lauda tightens McLaren's grip on Grand Prix racing

DIJON, France (R) — Austrian Niki Lauda sped to victory in the French Grand Prix here Sunday to propel the all-conquering McLaren team to their fourth triumph in five World Championship races.

Lauda and his trouble-free car proved too strong a combination for Frenchman Patrick Tambay, who started in pole position in his Renault but could not deny the Austrian in the second half of the race.

Lauda's second win of the season, following his success in South Africa, catapulted him into second place in the World Championship standings, six points behind French team-mate Alain Prost, who has a tally of 24.

Prost, who celebrated his first Grand Prix triumph at Dijon in 1981 and won last year's race at Le Castellet, lost crucial time in two lengthy pit-stops for wheel-changes and a brake problem.

He finished out of the points despite beating his own track record in a vain late charge.

Lauda, World Champion with Ferrari in 1975 and 1977, showed

all the mastery of old after a slow start. He picked off one rival after another to move from 10th at the end of the first lap to pass Tambay for the lead on the 41st of the 79 laps.

Lauda, taking up the challenge after Prost had fallen back, hauled back Tambay's lead and juggled his red and white McLaren in front, forcing the Frenchman to give way as he squeezed through on the left.

Tambay regained the lead for nine laps after enjoying a quicker tyre-change stop than his Austrian rival.

But Lauda hit back fast. He regained the lead 16 laps from the end and pulled away to win by more than seven seconds. It was the 21st victory of his long career.

"I had no problems at all," said the Austrian after ending three years of domination by Renault.

Nigel Mansell of Britain took his Lotus to third place to score his first points of the season. "It was a very hard race, but it's all come together and I'm really pleased," he said.

"The only problems were a left rear tyre which started to go off but then came on again, and a marshal who ran across the track in front of me."

Rene Arnoux of France, French Grand Prix victor in 1982, was fourth in a Ferrari, and Mansell's Lotus team-mate Elio de Angelis of Italy, who shadowed Tambay for the first 17 laps, came fifth.

Nobody else finished on the same lap as Lauda. Keke Rosberg, Finland's 1982 World Champion, was sixth on the track on which he won the displaced Swiss Grand

Prix in 1982.

Prost, winner in Brazil and San Marino this season, was a disappointed seventh, frustrated after he had looked like overhauling Tambay when he took second place from de Angelis but then fell away again after clawing his way from 11th to fourth.

Britain's Derek Warwick, always among the leaders in his Renault, went off the track in the 54th lap after touching wheels with twice-lapped Marc Surer of Switzerland. He escaped with a bruising.

Warwick, second overall before Sunday, now shares third place with Arnoux behind Prost and Lauda, whose McLaren's have clocked up 42 points — exactly as many as the combined total of Ferrari and Renault, respectively second and third in the Constructors' Championship.

World Team Cup to rival Davis Cup

DUESSELDORF, West Germany (R) — The World Team Cup begins here Monday with a field which suggests organisers are beginning to realise their ambition of rivaling the Davis Cup as the main team event in the tennis calendar.

Four of the world's top five singles players are taking part, including for the first time the man who is indisputably number one, John McEnroe of the United States.

An 18 per cent increase in prize-money to \$531,000 is not

Gomez wins Italian title

ROME (R) — Andres Gomez of Ecuador won the Italian Open Tennis Championship Sunday for the second time in three years when he beat the 16-year-old American prodigy Aaron Krickstein 2-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2.

When Krickstein won the first set he looked on course to become the youngest player to win the title, but Gomez was to prove a deserving winner of the \$40,000 first prize.

The fifth-seeded Gomez, ranked eighth in the world, recovered after the first set, serving superbly and never allowing the youngster to make full use of his powerful forehand.

Conditions at the Foro Italico were disturbing for the players, a swirling wind throwing dust and clay into their eyes for much of the match.

Krickstein said later he had never experienced such conditions. "We were almost playing some of the shots blind or with just one eye," he said.

The high school student from Michigan admitted that Gomez

had returned his best shots and smothered his game.

But Krickstein's coach Nick Bolletiere said he had been delighted with his player's progress in the past few weeks. "It was a fine performance for Krickstein even to reach the final," he said.

"Aaron was a baby in tennis terms until he played at Monte Carlo. Now he is becoming a man and is much more confident."

Gomez, who has been the only seeded player in the championships to play consistently throughout the week, said he felt in better physical shape than for some time.

Gomez won the title in 1982 when he beat another American, Eliot Teltscher, but he said Sunday's win was more satisfying.

He started nervously, losing the first set 6-2. But once he got in front in the second he was untoppable, allowing Krickstein to pick up just five more games.

The 24-year-old from Ecuador dominated at the net and Krickstein's confidence gradually ebbed away.

Gate Dancer gallops to Preakness Stakes record victory

BALTIMORE, Maryland (R) — Gate Dancer, the only horse ever disqualified in the Kentucky Derby for interference, kept to a straight course Saturday and pulled away in the stretch to win the 109th Preakness Stakes in track record time.

Play On was second while Fight Over, a 10-1 shot making only his fifth start, hung on to finish third. Kentucky Derby winner Swale, the 4-5 favourite, faded out of contention and finished seventh after challenging for the lead early in the race.

The time for the mile and 3/16th race was one minute 53-3/5 seconds.

Sent off as the 9-2 third choice, Gate Dancer hugged the rail on the tight turns during the early going. Then he moved up steadily throughout the race and assumed command a furlong and a half from the finish.

Gate Dancer, who runs equipped with ear muffs, a blinker and a tongue-tie because of his history of running erratically in the late stages of races, was literally man-

handled by his rider, Angel Cordero Jr.

Gate Dancer crossed the finish line a length and a half ahead of Play On. His winning time was 2:5 of a second faster than the 13-year-old track record which was set by Canonero II in the 1971 Preakness Stakes.

The victory was worth \$243,600 to Gate Dancer's owner Kenneth Opstein.

Swale, who was down to below even money at the start of the race, broke from the number five spot in the middle of the pack. He was hung up on the outside around both turns and was unable to turn it on in the stretch as he faded to seventh.

Gate Dancer ran with the benefit of the controversial drug Lasix, a diuretic given to horses who bleed on the race track.

The winner had earned a reputation as a bad actor. In the Kentucky Derby he ran fourth but was disqualified and placed fifth for bearing in and bumping another horse.

Wihdat beats Yugoslav team

AMMAN (J.T.) — Visiting Mount Negro soccer team from Yugoslavia ended their week-long visit to Jordan with a 1-0 defeat by its host Wihdat Football Club.

The only goal in a mediocre match was scored by Abdul Karim Shadfan in the 9th minute of the first half.

On Wednesday the Yugoslav team beat Ramtha football club 2-0.

Evert Lloyd bids for 6th title

PERUGIA, Italy (R) — Chris Evert Lloyd's chances of winning the Italian Women's Open tennis title this week for the sixth time will be boosted by the absence of arch-rival and fellow-American Martina Navratilova.

Evert Lloyd, 29, won the championship in 1974 and 1975, when the women's event was twinned with the men's in Rome, and then from 1980 to 1982 when it moved to this university town.

But last year she did not defend her crown, which went to Hungarian teenager Andrea Tem-

esvari. Navratilova, 27, has chosen to miss the Italian event and practice instead for the French Open which begins in Paris next Monday. Victory there would give her her fourth successive "Grand Slam" title, after winning Wimbledon and the U.S. and Australian Opens.

Britain's Jo Durie, whose rise from 23rd to sixth in the world computer rankings began when she reached the last eight here last year, is seeded to meet Evert Lloyd in the final.

But Durie's start to the year has been disappointing and she will have to work hard to live up to her seeding.

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Performances: 12-3-5:30-8

First Chicago denies Illinois Continental bid

CHICAGO (R) — First National Bank of Chicago Saturday night denied a report that it planned to acquire all or part of Continental Illinois, which has received credit of \$7.5 billion in the largest rescue operation in U.S. banking history.

But First Chicago, the 11th largest U.S. bank and the second-largest in Chicago after Continental Illinois, did not rule out an eventual bid.

"We are not presently preparing a bid," First Chicago Chairman Barry Sullivan said in a statement commenting on a report in early editions of Sunday's Chicago Tribune.

"Any final decision to do so would have to await further study to assess fully the pros and cons of the issues."

Continental Chairman David G. Taylor said last Thursday a merger was one possible course of action which his bank, the eighth largest in the United States, might take to bail it permanently out of financial difficulties.

The immediate crisis for Continental Illinois began after market rumors that it was in trouble led to substantial withdrawals of deposits.

First Chicago, whose holding company, First Chicago Corp. is worth \$36.3 billion, has been among several major U.S., European and Japanese banks whose names surface in the past week as

possible buyers of Continental Illinois.

Mr. Taylor said on Thursday his bank had received the \$7.5-billion aid package from the government and commercial banks to help it to overcome what he termed a short-term liquidity crisis.

He added that in order to strengthen the bank "one course of action is to seek a merger with another major financial institution and we are already taking steps to start this process."

By Friday, merger speculation centered on large U.S. banks as, one by one, leading foreign banks denied they planned a bid.

But bank stock analysts said a takeover by another major U.S. bank might raise questions regarding U.S. prohibitions on interstate banking.

A First Chicago-Illinois Continental merger would not infringe interstate banking regulations since both have their headquarters in Illinois, analysts noted.

A spokesman for First Chicago said Mr. Sullivan was on a golf course when told of the newspaper report saying his bank would bid for Continental and First Chicago President Richard Thomas was at home.

"Certainly if there has been a bid in process, they would not have been at home, they'd have been down at the bank," the spokesman said.

'Group of ten' ministers agree IMF should have bigger role

ROME (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) may acquire a strengthened role in supervising economic policy in the developed world following a meeting of Finance Ministers from the "group of ten" Western industrialized countries.

A joint statement issued after the one-day meeting Saturday said finance ministers and their central bank governors "affirmed the need to strengthen multilateral surveillance over countries' policies particularly within the context of the IMF."

The U.S.-inspired call for a bigger IMF role arose from what the statement termed "varying degrees of dissatisfaction" with certain features of the floating exchange rate system.

Italian monetary officials said the proposal was partly a response by Washington to mounting concern about U.S. interest rates, which may continue to rise from their already high level.

The body agreed that a report would be prepared by early next

year which would consider various options including a U.S. idea that the IMF should be empowered to report publicly on group of ten countries' economic policies.

The officials said there was no specific debate about the Latin America and developing country debt crisis, expected to feature in next month's London summit of Western leaders.

The group of ten brings together Belgium, Britain, Canada, France, West Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the U.S. in a forum for financial policy debate.

Switzerland attended the meeting for the first time as a full member after formally joining the group earlier this year.

Ministers attending the mee-

ting, chaired by Italy's Treasury Minister Giovanni Goria, ruled out a return in the near future to a system of fixed exchange rates similar to the Bretton Woods agreement which collapsed in the early 1970s.

"We all agreed that floating rates would continue to be the basis of the international monetary system for some time to come, while a return to fixed parities would be unrealistic," Canadian Finance Minister Marc Lalonde said after the meeting.

But ministers agreed that increased co-operation in framing economic policies and fighting inflation "would make an essential contribution to growth and exchange rate stability," the statement said.

European countries have repeatedly urged the United States to control the growth of its massive federal budget deficit by boosting taxes to halt the rise in the value of the dollar on international currency markets and bring down inter-

est rates.

Italian officials said the U.S. proposal for an increased IMF role went some way to meeting European demands that Washington should take more account of the problems of its economic partners in framing budget and interest rate policies.

U.S. officials acknowledged a shift in position, but played down its importance. "We are always ready to discuss anything," Treasury Secretary Donald Regan told reporters after the meeting.

But one European official said: "When the Americans say they want increased economic policy co-operation what they really mean is that everybody has to adapt to their policies."

Most ministers at Saturday's meeting also attended a two-day conference in Paris of the 24-nation Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) which ended on Friday after agreeing on a strategy to boost economic recovery worldwide.

West German union opts for national negotiations

FRANKFURT. West Germany trade union, to return to top-level negotiations rather than make good on their call for another 33,000 workers to strike Monday in Hesse state.

The strikes, which closed two Audi automobile plants Friday in addition to previous shutdowns at BMW and other German automakers, already have cost the nation 4 billion marks (\$1.5 billion) in the first six days, said Labour Minister Norbert Blum.

If the strikes continue, Mr. Blum told a news conference in Bonn, the financial loss could easily

climb to 12 billion marks (\$4.5 billion) while allowing foreign competitors to make inroads at the expense of German manufacturers, Mr. Blum said.

Mr. Mayr said the union's decision to seek a solution at the regional level was influenced by the announcement of the Federal Labour Office on Friday that it would not pay unemployment money to workers at auto factories forced to close for lack of car parts.

Most of the 17 West German labour unions, led by the almost

Venezuela increases price of heavy crude

CARACAS (R) — Venezuela said Saturday it will raise the price of its heavy crude oil by an average of \$0.63 a barrel from Monday.

The new price will be \$24.65 a barrel and will apply to more than half of Venezuela's exports of about 1.45 million barrels per day.

Energy and Mines Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti said the increase was not directly related to the Gulf war, but was a

result of higher demand for this type of oil.

He said Venezuela was "extremely worried" about the spread of the conflict in the Gulf, but he did not believe oil shipments from the region would be cut off.

Venezuelan heavy crude is not subject to price rules agreed by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, MAY 21, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You have the urge to break up and make some changes now that can be harmful to your best interests unless you get the advice and consent of those who are in a position of influence.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Steer clear of a confrontation with a good friend and remain calm, cool and collected. Everyone about you is touchy today.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Make those changes in your work that you have in mind so that it can be improved, but only after you get the OK of higher-ups.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Take care you do not act in haste where some new activity is concerned. A new contact has a feasible plan; wait before acting on it.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Don't argue over some bill that you do not think is right. Don't fly off the handle if your mate is acting strangely tonight.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Study that agreement your partner wants you to sign or agree to since there could be a fly in the ointment.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Make plans to modernize your work so that it runs more efficiently. Don't make changes where co-workers are concerned.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Find out what entertainments will cost before you make any appointments. Stop any quarrel that may arise with your mate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Study the situation at home and make any changes you deem necessary, without disturbing others who dwell therein.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Study communications well and handle them as quickly and briefly as possible, but intelligently.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You want to make some changes in property but should study them further before you do so. Take it easy tonight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You get all kinds of ideas, both good and bad, so be sure you utilize only the best ones. Take few risks.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Instead of changing your mind every two minutes, decide what you really want to do and carry through in a positive manner.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will seem to have two natures, one which is very conservative and the other will love to delve into all sorts of interests and be outgoing. Teach to make the right choices and to sensitive to the views of others.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!
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Bahrain's offshore bank assets rise to record

BAHRAIN (R) — Assets of Bahrain's 77 offshore banks reached a record in March, the Bahrain Monetary Agency said Sunday.

It said total assets of the banks rose to \$63.47 billion from \$59.95 billion in February, surpassing the previous record of \$62.74 billion reached in December 1983.

Deposits from Arab countries accounted for 65.5 per cent of the banks' balance sheets. West European countries provided 21.4 per cent of deposits and North America 10 per cent.

A breakdown of the liabilities of the banks' balance sheets also showed dollar liabilities of the banks rose to \$41.42 billion from \$39.63 billion, while the share of regional currencies rose to \$17.02 billion from \$15.60 billion.

L. American bankers favour collective debt renegotiation

FORTALEZA, Brazil (AP) — Hundreds of Latin American bankers issued a statement urging Third World countries to join and collectively renegotiate their debts with foreign creditors.

The bankers, at a meeting of the Latin American Association of Financial Associations for Development, warned that "the excessive indebtedness of Latin countries could have unpredictable consequences."

"It is indispensable that the foreign debt problem be approached jointly by debtor countries and their creditors," the association said in an official statement.

The group also recommended fixing interest rates on Third World debts at around 7 per cent, and tying debt service payments to each country's exports.

Spain's booming exports are keeping economy afloat

By Jules Stewart
Reuters

MADRID — Spain's exports have leapt by 29 per cent so far this year, an achievement unmatched by any European competitor and a sign that Spanish businessmen are waking up to the challenges of international trade.

Every major group of exports rose significantly in the first quarter compared to the same period in 1983 — 84 per cent for petroleum products, 66 per cent for steel and iron, 35 per cent for metal products and machinery, 49 per cent for vehicles, 31 per cent for cooking oil and fresh vegetables.

"Our objective is to export — and to sell to customers who pay their bills," Secretary General for Trade Guillermo de la Dehesa told Reuters. "This means OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) member countries and especially the United States," he added.

The 17-month-old Socialist government is trying to move away from Spain's traditional

export clients in Latin America and Africa.

"Spanish businessmen are learning the lessons from the collapse of Latin American markets," the Director General for Exports, Mr. Apolinario Ruiz Ligerio, said in an interview.

Sales to Europe, the United States and Canada rose by 36 per cent in 1983 and accounted for nearly three-quarters of Spain's exports. In the same period exports to Latin America fell by 19 per cent and are now less than one-tenth of the market total.

Due to its exports surge, Spain managed in the first quarter to slash its current account deficit to \$1.4 billion from almost twice that amount in 1983.

"This year, at the present rate, we will come close to balancing the current accounts deficit," said Mr. De la Dehesa.

Exports have become a key item in Spain's economic survival strategy, with private sector capital investment entering its ninth year of negative growth, almost zero growth in domestic demand and an ageing, unproductive industrial structure requiring \$6.6 billion in modernisation costs.

In 1983 exports valued at 2.9 trillion pesetas (\$19 billion) accounted for more than half Spain's 2.1 per cent gross domestic product growth. This year's exports are expected to provide almost 70 per cent of the country's projected 2.5 per cent growth.

A key factor behind Spain's blossoming exports was the fact that last year the peseta depreciated by 23 per cent against the dollar, cutting the cost of Spanish goods abroad.

The government sees no need to touch the free-floating peseta this year. The outlook is for an average exchange rate of 150 pesetas to the dollar in 1984, which is considered adequate to achieve this year's targeted 8.5 per cent export growth.

Spanish businessmen, encouraged by high trade tariffs to limit their horizon to the booming domestic market of the late 1960s and early 1970s, consistently neglected the outside world until the 1973 oil crisis brought Spain's economy to a halt.

Between 1973 and 1974 it suffered a 16 per cent drop in private capital investment and a five per cent drop in domestic demand.

Spain's business community is taking a long time to come to terms with the market system. But despite flagging capital investment, a growing number of entrepreneurs are setting their sights on foreign markets.

"We have about 10,000 exporters, far too few for a country the size of Spain," Mr. Ruiz Ligerio said.

"But Spanish businessmen are learning the ropes out of sheer necessity," he added.

An encouraging sign, says Mr. Ruiz Ligerio, is the fact that Spanish exporters are taking the plunge into the United States, which the government has made the 1984 prime market.

"Sparkling wine is a good example of how we stack up against the competition," Mr. De la Dehesa said, adding that Spain was about 10 years behind the Italian and French wine exporters in marketing experience and know-how.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

"A letter of recommendation from my boss!"

Peanuts

SOMETIMES I WONDER WHY I DO THIS... IT'S HARD WORK TAKING CARE OF A DOG...

YOU HAVE TO FEED HIM.. MAKE SURE HE HAS A GOOD PLACE TO SLEEP.. DOGS ARE NICE BUT THEY'RE ALSO A LOT OF TROUBLE...

I GUESS THIS WOULDN'T BE A GOOD TIME TO ASK FOR AN ADVANCE ON MY INHERITANCE...

Mutt 'n' Jeff

WHAT SIZE PIECE OF GLASS DO YOU WANT?

OH, ABOUT SO BIG AND I WANT A GLASS CUTTER

EVERYBODY THINKS CUTTING GLASS IS DIFFICULT! ALL YOU NEED IS A GOOD SHARP CUTTER!

Andy Capp

WE ALWAYS DINE IN THE EVENING — SO MUCH MORE CIVILISED. I LIKE TO VARY THE MENUS, BUT IT'S KNOWING WHAT TO GET —

— PLANNING A MEAL CAN BE A BIT OF A PROBLEM

IT'S THE SAME, AREN'T I, ANDY?

IT'S A FACT, MISSUS. SHE'S NEVER QUITE SURE IF THE FISH 'N' CHIP SHOP OPENS AT SIX OR HALF-PAST

THE Daily Crossword

by Fran Ragus

ACROSS	27 Shirt	51 Actress	22 Guiding
1 Predicament	material	Lupino	spirit
5 Cushiony	30 Philippine	52 "Woman of	26 Snoop
9 Mine or tar	island	the Year"	27 Nag
13 Astrigint	32 Farewell,	star	28 Polish
14 Oratorio	mon ami	58 Instrument	for Casals
15 Hungarian	33 "Falcon	60 Minor or	29 Small
hero	Crest"	Major	monkey
17 City of	37 Steep flax	61 Conflagra-	31 Indigo
E. Ger.	38 Luxury	tion	33 Play tricks
18 Shopping	material	62 Ant, old	34 Sound of
area	39 Unit	style	distress
19 Rag	40 "Dollars"	63 "— a kick	35 Heavenly
20 "Dynasty"	41 Victoria	out of you"	being: Fr.
23 100 yrs.	43 Carpets of	64 Over	36 Bower home
24 Satisfied	a kind	65 Voice	38 City in
exclama-	45 Consumed	votes	Alaska
tions	46 "— of the	66 Rene's head	41 Teacher's
25 Certain	47 Land	Moos	grp.
berths	50 Tumult		42 Bunny food

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

SHIRAZ	SAVED	PAYAS
WADAI	GULIVER	OLLAN
ALLES	LAISSE	SARA
MOIS	OUT	YON
UNDER	LEIA	
SNODGR	PICILLARIS	
HUNTED	LAICE	WITTS
ERSTE	EVENT	SAINE
ESTE	SCAT	SPARSE
RETRIEVAL	EMERER	
ERIN	ANDROID	
BULL	TRIP	TO
ANDIA	ERGO	ALLIO
BUFF	ROUSIE	RITTY
ETTIE	SPIED	SIANIS

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Religious riots claim 75 lives in India

NEW DELHI (R) — Three days of Hindu-Muslim riots have claimed 75 lives in western India where heavily-armed police Sunday patrolled the tense city of Bombay, the country's financial centre.

The death toll, reported Sunday by the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency, includes four people killed Saturday night in a Bombay suburb when police opened fire on crowds rampaging through the streets.

About 6,000 people have been evacuated from 1,200 burnt-out homes in Bombay, the nearby industrial town of Bhiwandi and the surrounding district of Thane, police said. So far about 1,500 people have been arrested in the state to curb unrest, they added.

Fears of spreading sectarian attacks dominated the start of two days of polling for 24 local by-elections in 14 of India's 22 states.

Tight security was imposed in at least seven states as the first of 3.5 million people cast their votes, PTI said.

PTI reported only one incident at polling stations when supporters of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and rival Communists stoned each other in Calcutta after one voter was injured in a bomb blast. It gave no further details.

Concern over communal violence is expected to play a vital role in what political analysts see as a major test of Mrs. Gandhi's popular support.

Home (interior) minister P.C. Sethi told reporters in Bombay Sunday after a tour of strife-torn

Maharashtra state that he would report directly to Mrs. Gandhi on his assessment of the riots.

PTI said Mrs. Gandhi was likely to visit the state but it gave no details. Officials would not comment on the report.

In Bhiwandi on Saturday at least 20 bodies were recovered from a house gutted by arsonists. Initial police reports said the victims had been burnt alive, but subsequent unconfirmed reports said they had been stabbed and their bodies dumped in the blaze.

PTI said a curfew has been clamped on six districts of Bombay itself after religious feuding spilled over from neighbouring areas.

It described the unrest as the worst recorded in Maharashtra. It followed a wave of Sikh-Hindu unrest in the northern state of Punjab in which more than 200 people have died since the beginning of the year.

Marcos attributes opposition gains to black propaganda, denies cheating

MANILA (R) — President Ferdinand Marcos Sunday blamed "black propaganda" for opposition gains in the Philippines parliamentary elections.

He denied there had been any cheating by his ruling New Society Movement (KBL), which lost several seats in last Monday's election, but ordered that vote-counting be speeded up.

Delays in reporting results have led to angry protests, particularly in Manila and the central district of Cebu, by opposition supporters who charge that the count is being rigged. More than 130 people have died in election-related and anti-government violence during the polling period.

In Cebu, four people were killed and at least 18 hurt in clashes Saturday night between security forces and about 50,000 demonstrators throwing rocks and Molotov cocktails.

Mr. Marcos said on government

television that the incidents saddened him.

"They may somehow blur the image of our free democracy that we have presented to the world by holding free, honest and proper elections where the untrammelled will of the people was allowed to be expressed," he said.

Ordering election officials and KBL supporters not to delay counting, "even where the KBL has lost," Mr. Marcos also appealed to the opposition to "keep its cool."

Results so far give the KBL 76 of the 183 elected seats in the National Assembly and the opposition United Nationalist Democratic Organisation (UNIDO) 29. Independents and others have 14. Mr. Marcos can appoint a further 17 members.

Many of the UNIDO victories, were in metropolitan Manila and other urban areas.

"Why did they win in some of the big cities (while) we won in the

countryside," Mr. Marcos asked. "Don't tell me it is because the people in the countryside are less intelligent... probably it is because of black propaganda."

"The black press overwhelmed the legitimate press in Manila and in Cebu," he said, accusing radio stations there of a campaign against himself and his wife Imelda.

Mr. Marcos said the KBL's victories in the two seats in the home province of opposition leader Benigno Aquino showed his murder last August had not been an issue in the election.

Up to now, he said, "we have shown maximum restraint, maximum tolerance, and will continue to do so. I think the opposition should be happy with their victories in the cities and in the provinces."

Mr. Marcos said his party could probably have cheated if it had wanted to but had preferred to do what was right.

2 Soviet soldiers to stay in Switzerland

BERNE (R) — Two Soviet soldiers were allowed to stay in Switzerland Sunday when they ended two years' internment following capture by Afghan guerrillas, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

They were given one-year Swiss residence permits, while a third released at the same time from the military detention camp where they were held left Zurich on a Soviet Aeroflot flight to Moscow.

Under an agreement worked out in 1982 by the International Red Cross, the guerrillas and the Swiss, Soviet and Afghan governments, a total of 11 Soviet soldiers have been freed by the guerrillas and flown to Switzerland for internment.

Although the original intention of the accord was that they should subsequently return home, Swiss officials have said none would be forced to do so against his will.

The Soviet ambassador in Berne protested that Swiss authorities influenced the two to stay in Switzerland.

5,000 Chinese 'put out of action', Hanoi says

BANGKOK (AP) — Hanoi contends its forces in the northern provinces bordering China "put out of action" more than 5,000 Chinese troops making border raids from April 2 to May 18, Vietnam News Agency reported Saturday.

The official Vietnamese News Agency monitored in Bangkok said Vietnamese forces destroyed 34 Chinese artillery and mortar positions, 35 military vehicles, five ammunition depots and a number of field headquarters.

The VNA report did not give Vietnamese military casualties but said the alleged Chinese attacks, including a barrage of more than 120,000 artillery and mortar rounds on the six northern border provinces, killed hundreds of civilians and caused substantial property damage.

It charged that during the six weeks, Chinese Army units lau-

nched many "land-grabbing attacks" on Vietnamese border provinces. It said five army corps of the Kunming and Kweichow military regions were mobilised close to the common border, and units from two army corps of the Kunming military region were sent to attack several hills in Ha Tuyen and Lang Son provinces.

The Vietnamese claims cannot be verified. Diplomats here generally believe that while some fighting is taking place, there is more rhetoric than bullets in the recently heightened border tensions.

China and Vietnam were close allies until Hanoi invaded Kampuchea in late 1978 and drove out of Phnom Penh the Peking-backed Khmer Rouge.

On Friday, China's official Xinhua News Agency denied Vietnam's claim that hundreds of intruding Chinese troops were killed earlier in the week.

Peron returns to Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Former President Isabel Peron, ousted by a 1976 military coup, returned to Argentina Sunday to head a Peronist delegation scheduled to begin political talks with President Raul Alfonsín, the nation's new leader.

Mrs. Peron, who has lived in Spain since being released from house arrest by military authorities in 1981, was greeted by approximately 2,500 supporters as she stepped from a commercial airliner at Ezeiza International Airport, 30 kilometres southwest of the capital.

Several thousand people, many carrying signs of welcome, waited for her along the freeway linking the airport with the city. Helmeted police were posted at intervals of 200 metres to keep well-wishers off the highway.

Mrs. Peron was expected to lead a Peronist delegation that will begin talks on Monday with Mr. Alfonsín whose Dec. 10 inauguration ended more than seven years of military rule in Argentina.

Mr. Alfonsín's centre-left radical Civic Union handed the Labour-based Peronist Party its first election defeat in nearly 40 years in October, 1983 general elections.

Mr. Alfonsín plans to meet with representatives of all opposition parties in an effort to gain support for his administration's policies on various issues, including renegotiation of the nation's \$43.6 billion foreign debt and internal economic and social problems.

Mrs. Peron, the 52-year-old widow of three-time president Juan Peron, was president from 1974 until she was ousted in a 1976 military coup. She was convicted of misuse of the funds of a Peronist charity and spent five years in detention at various military bases, then at her suburban home.

France settles Napoleon's debt

BOURG ST. PIERRE, Switzerland (R) — France Saturday settled Napoleon's debt to the Swiss village of Bourg St. Pierre — for 80 unreturned pots and pans, 2,037 uprooted trees, 3,150 logs for the transport of cannons and local labour — with a bronze plaque and a handwritten note from President Francois Mitterrand. This staging post on the great St. Bernard Pass had been pressing Paris to honour the French emperor's signed pledge to reimburse costs incurred when he crossed with his army in 1800 on the way to Italy. The 200 inhabitants resubmitted a bill for 45,334 Swiss francs (\$19,901) just before Mr. Mitterrand visited Switzerland a year ago. On Saturday, the 184th anniversary of Napoleon's passage, Mr. Mitterrand's Chief of Cabinet Jean-Claude Colliard unveiled a commemorative plaque and handed the French president's message to Mayor Fernand Doraz, Mayor Doraz, a direct descendant of the head muleteer who led the emperor's baggage train over the pass, had earlier declared readiness to forget the bill in return for the symbolic gesture.

Maid stabs child to death

KUWAIT (AP) — A Pakistani maid stabbed two children of her Kuwaiti employer in what police described Sunday as a fit of depression. The maid was in tears when arrested Saturday, and police said she was blubbering and saying that she missed her children back in Pakistan. She was identified only by her first name, Soraya. Soraya was alone in the house, in a Kuwait suburb with a nine-year-old girl and her four-year-old brother whose mother had gone shopping in preparation for the boy's birthday party. The maid stabbed the girl with a knife and left her in a blood bath, police said. The mother returned home and rushed her daughter to hospital, leaving her boy with the maid at home. The girl died before reaching hospital and when the mother returned home, she found that the maid had fatally stabbed the boy, police added.

Egypt's population becomes 47 million

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt population became 47 million in April 19, an increase of one million in less than nine months with a rate of a baby every 22.3 seconds. A statement by the Statistic Department published in Jumburia's Sunday edition said 23,883,110 of the population are males and 23,166,989 are females. It said the total population in Aug. 4, 1983 was 46 millions. The statistics showed the crippling increase was over 238 days or about eight and half months. Last August statistics showed that the population increased by one million in 299 days, with a rate of a baby every 25.1 seconds. No other details were given.

Birth rate drops in Chinese province

PEKING (AP) — Population growth in Sichuan, China's most populous province, declined because of family planning laws to 6.05 per thousand in 1983, 2.91 per thousand lower than in 1982, the official News Agency Xinhua said Sunday. It said this meant that by the end of 1983, Sichuan had 100,755,038 people, 534,289 more than in 1982. Sichuan has about one-tenth of the national population of one billion in the world's most populous nation. Chinese demographers have said the country must keep its population growth rate below 9.5 per thousand if it hopes to limit the number of people to 1.2 billion by the end of the century, a major goal of the Communist government. Strict family planning laws limit most couples to one child.

World synod to debate role of laity

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul Saturday announced that the theme of the next World Synod of Roman Catholic bishops will be the role of the laity in the Church. The synod, which advised the Pope on matters affecting the church, will be held at the Vatican in 1986.



WINNER'S SPOILS: Rick Keller stacks some of the \$660,000 first prize he won in Las Vegas, Nevada, Thursday after he became the winner of the annual World Series of Poker tournament. Mr. Keller, who previously operated an auto body repair shop, says he has been struggling the last two years to make a living playing poker (AP wirephoto)

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KQ10 ♥82 ♠K95 ♠AJ432
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KQ8 ♠AKQJ83 ♠AQ104
The bidding has proceeded: South West North East 2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K7 ♥J1064 ♠Q9832 ♠65
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

Q.4—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠9 ♥J7632 ♠Q10952 ♠A2
The bidding has proceeded: West North East South 1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K10952 ♥J9 ♠AK3 ♠AJ4
Your right-hand opponent deals and opens three spades. What action do you take?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠83 ♥76 ♠K83 ♥J87542
The bidding has proceeded: North East South 1 ♥ 2 ♠ ?
What action do you take?

Democratic leaders foresee possible Hart resurgence

By Paul Mindus
Reuter

NEW YORK — Democratic Party officials consider Sen. Gary Hart could beat Mr. Walter Mondale in all five final primaries on June 5, a coup that could throw their bitter presidential nomination fight to the party convention in July.

A Reuters survey of party officials in each state showed that Colorado Senator Hart had an edge in California, the biggest prize, and was closing on former Vice President Mondale in New Jersey, the next most important primary.

State party chairmen said Sen. Hart led Mr. Mondale and black leader Jesse Jackson in New Mexico, South Dakota and West Virginia, a traditional trade union stronghold that was thought loyal to Mr. Mondale.

West Virginia Chairman Joseph Goodwin referred to the possibility of a convention battle should Sen. Hart make a clean sweep of the final primaries.

"At base the Democrats love the smell of blood, and if there's a possibility of having a good fight, they'll want to get right in the middle of it."

The division in the Democratic

Party would delight the Republicans and President Reagan who is likely to be renominated as Republican presidential candidate by acclaim.

The Democratic Party officials said however that there were a large number of undecided voters and that more than two weeks of campaigning remained before polling day.

The nomination will be decided by ballot of 3,933 delegates at the party convention opening in San Francisco on July 16. A majority of 1,967 is needed to win.

Unofficial estimates vary slightly on how much support each candidate has so far. There is no official tally.

In general the estimates give Mr. Mondale 1,524 delegates from 44 state ballots and various party procedures so far. Sen. Hart has 941. Rev. Jackson 297, uncommitted 336 and "others" 58.

The June 5 ballots are crucial. They will decide 486 delegates. California provides 306 delegates, New Jersey 107, West Virginia 35, New Mexico 23 and South Dakota 15.

The only state remaining is Idaho, which will choose 18 delegates by caucus, or party-meeting, vote on May 24.

Mr. Mondale would have to take 80-90 per cent of the 504 delegates still up for election to claim victory by way of the primaries and caucuses alone, a prospect now highly unlikely.

Mr. Mondale's aides say they are not worried about the delegate count from the primaries because there will be a block of several hundred "uncommitted" delegates including another 210 still to be chosen by party leaders outside the election process.

This bloc is dominated by party loyalists who are presumed to be Mr. Mondale supporters.

Sen. Hart believes most of the involved in the final primaries gave the following assessments: California Chairman Peter Kelly said Sen. Hart could win a very close race. Opinion polls show Sen. Hart and Mr. Mondale running even.

Mr. Kelly said, "the state is susceptible to his 'YUPPY' (Young Urban Professional) appeal and Rev. Jesse Jackson has the potential of running better here than almost any state."

"That works to Sen. Hart's advantage," he added, because Rev. Jackson takes black votes away from the liberal ex-vice president without hurting Sen. Hart much.

Among California's 6.1 million Democrats, Mr. Mondale has strong backing from unions and party activists.

In New Jersey, vitally important to Mr. Mondale should he lose, California, State Party Executive Director Kate Litvak said polls that once showed Mondale 10 points ahead were out of date.

"I see the race as a toss-up at the moment," Ms. Litvak said.

She said the undecided vote now appeared very high.

State Party Chairman James Maloney, who backs Mr. Hart,

Democratic leaders of the states

NEWS ANALYSIS

so-called uncommitted delegates will back him at the convention if Mr. Mondale's support drops away at the June 5 primaries.

Mr. Mondale, rebounding from early Sen. Hart upsets in New Hampshire and elsewhere, seemed headed for victory after a string of triumphs from Illinois in March through Texas on May 5.

Sen. Hart made a comeback by winning the prestigious Ohio primary on May 8, and added wins in Indiana, Oregon and Nebraska.

Democratic leaders of the states